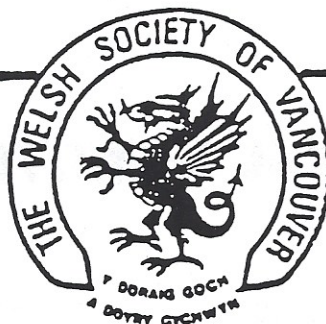


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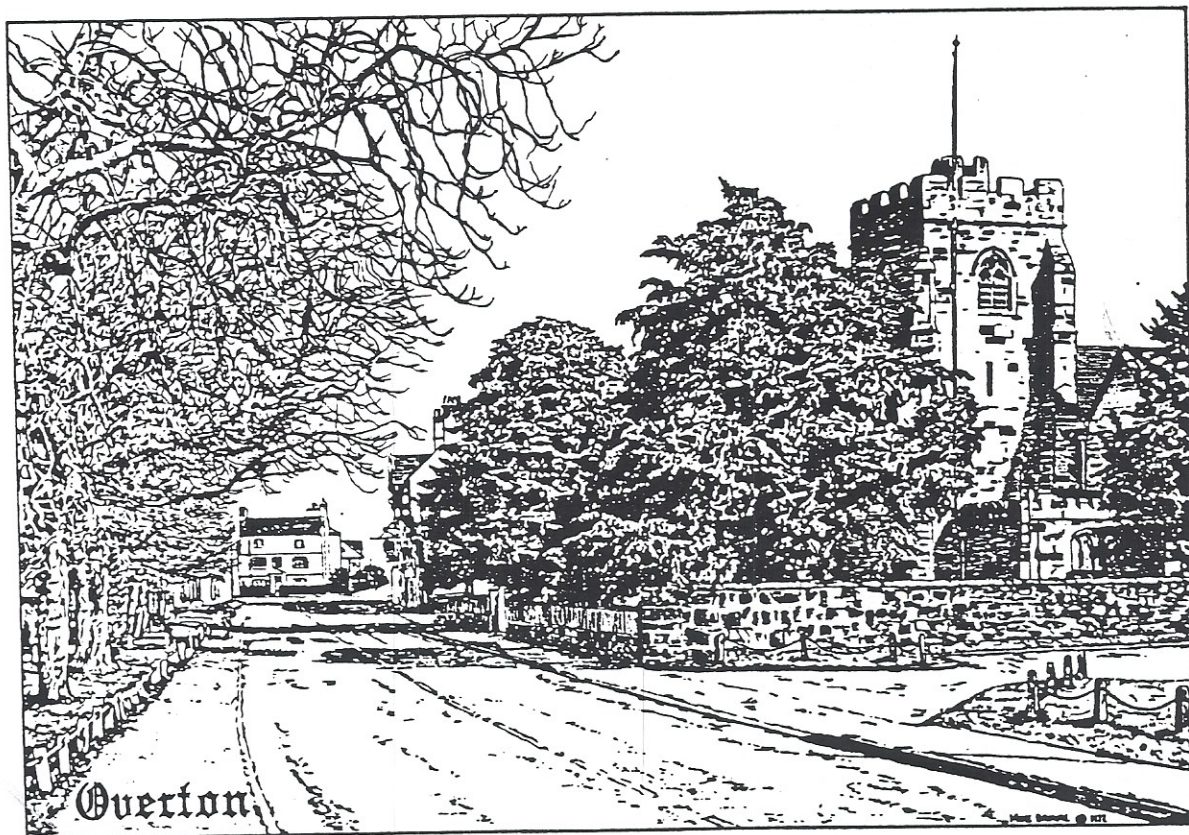
1993

MAY TO JUNE

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

*Cambrian News*

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg





# SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

## NOSON LAWEN AND GYMANFA GANU

At the first Noson Lawen of the year - May 1st - we had a fairly large crowd of people show up, despite the awful weather.

For those who didn't attend, you missed Rose Murphy's now infamous Leek Soup, and the wonderful melodies from the ivory tinkling of Arthur Williams.

Just the things to bring cheer to a wet Saturday night.

There are many people to thank for putting this weekend together. Firstly, to Gwen and Tony Tonack who proved once again that they are real troopers, getting the preparations well under way on Saturday night and Sunday morning - for the Church Service and Gymanfa. What would we do without your hard work, G. and T.?

Same for Gaynor Evans, Gaynor Owen, Phyllis Owens, Veronica Gilder and anyone else who helped out in the kitchen on Sunday. Every bit counts and it is appreciated.

Upstairs the Gymanfa went off very well, the singing sounded exceptional. Enid Lewis' piano playing was superb - diolch Enid - and to David Tuck, the Welsh Society send sincere thanks to you, for showing up to perform, despite being under an incredible strain.

If you missed the above two events, for whatever reason, there will be a second N. L. & G. G. weekend in November. Why not join us !

## BRITISH PUB NIGHT

I am happy to report, that the fundraiser held at the Red Dragon to aid the B. C. Lupus Society, was a huge success.

A large crowd showed up and we had plenty of fun - singing, playing darts and the Chepstow Races! The food was delicious too and there were lots of prizes to be won.

To Arthur Williams for playing piano and Joan Thomsen for leading us in the songs - and everyone else who made the evening such a triumph, Thank You/Diolch.

## CALLING ALL RAFFLE ENTHUSIASTS!

Mr. Frank Chappell has once again, very kindly donated some of his beautiful, handcrafted silver jewellery to the Welsh Society. The set, consisting of a torque, earrings and bracelet is reminiscent of what the ancient Britons and Gauls used to wear and has a value of \$300.00.

We have decided to offer this set (complete) as a raffle prize and the draw for the winner is aimed at the next Anniversary Dinner, in October.

However, before all that can happen, we need someone to delegate the organising and the selling of the raffle tickets.

If you feel you are a person who is good at this kind of job, please give an Executive Member a call for further details.

Many people have asked as to why there was hardly any of the Welsh culture to be found at the British Show, May 7th - 9th.

Apparently, the organisers of the event said that they had obtained our address - Cambrian Hall - and had written to us, a while ago, inviting us to take part in the show.



It is needless to say, that we never received such a letter, because nothing would have given us greater pleasure, than to participate in this event.

Visitors to the show, expressed their dismay at finding so little of Wales and the Welsh on display, although the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir did the best representation they could, despite the lateness of notification on the Wednesday before the show.

However, another British Show is being planned for 1994, so we are already starting to get ideas together for then.

This would be a great opportunity for YOU to get involved!

**LOOK US  
OVER!**

*W*

## THE MAKING OF A QUILT

During the March 1993 General Meeting, the Executive invited volunteers to respond to a letter from the Poultney, Vermont St. David's Society asking us to join with them in creating a quilt that would be displayed at all future National Gymanfaoedd.

The centre of the quilt will feature the Red Dragon; the corners will feature the daffodil, the harp, the Welsh Lady's Hat and a castle. Squares from various Welsh groups will complete the quilt.

We were asked to contribute a square unique to our Society - so Eirlys Ann Thomas "volunteered" to coordinate the project and has designed the 6" x 6" square.

We are now very pleased that Wendy Chappell will embroider, in cross stitch, the square. She will hopefully have it completed by about September after she returns from a trip to Britain. We will take a photograph of the finished square, frame it and then put it in the Trophy Case at the Red Dragon.

Eirlys Ann Thomas.

## Executive Highlights

A motion was passed to rent a dumpster, so we can begin the clearing up of Jack's Landing, in preparation for the all the work that needs to be done up there. We are still looking for volunteers to help out. If you're interested contact Jack Smith at 683-1335.



The annual Summer Barbecue, is on Sunday, July 25th and as tradition dictates, will be held at the home of our president and his wife!



Please bring your own steaks, hotdogs or hamburgers etc. for barbecuing, thanx. The pool will be filled and ready and the canoe will be ready, but not filled!

I'm already looking forward to it. Let the sun shine on!  
More details next Newsletter.

### PLEASE DON'T FORGET!

THE MULLED WINE EVENING IS ON NOVEMBER 27TH AT THE RED DRAGON. THE CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE IS ON DECEMBER 4TH AT THE CAMBRIAN HALL.

REMEMBER TO WRITE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR! YOUR SUPPORT AT THESE FESTIVITIES COUNTS.

### *Can You Help ?*

Bertha Smith is looking for Welsh tall hats to be used at a upcoming engagement for the Folk Dancers.

If you wouldn't mind lending that hat that's may have been just collecting dust, give Bertha a call at 683-1335.

### GOLF BARBECUE AND DANCE

We'd like to offer you a further reminder of this event which is on Saturday, June 26th. The golfing starts at 12.00 p.m. at the Delta Golf Course and is \$40.00.

The Barbecue and Dance begins at 6.30 p.m. at the Red Dragon. The cost is \$5.00 and please remember to bring your own steaks, hamburgers or whatever you wish for the barbecue. Condiments and salads are provided.

Prize-giving and Dancing starts at 8.30 p.m.

More information is available from Bob Marsh at 946-3612 or Rob Barclay at 940-9112.



### *"Voices Across the Sea"*

As you may have heard by now, the Dowlais Male Voice Choir will be touring Western Canada from May 27th to May 29th. On Friday, May 28th at 8pm, they are giving a joint concert with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir at St. Andrew's Wesley Church.

Hopefully you have bought your tickets and won't be missing out on this terrific event.

Now, some of the Dowlais Choir members and quite possibly their wives too, will be needing a place to stay for the few days while they are here. If you have room to put up one or two visitors, would you please call Bill Hunter at 224-6246.

## Women's Auxiliary

TE GWANWYN ARDDERCHOG!

A very successful Spring Tea which realised a grand total of fifteen hundred and fifteen dollars, (a donation of thirty six cents from the treasurer gave us this nice round figure!!)

The first thanks and must go to all the members of the W. A. who gave unstintingly of their time, energy and expertise to the project. However, without the help of so many others in the Society the Tea would not have been the success it was. So thank you to

Stephanie and Clare Boggan, Frank and Wendy Chappell, Gwyn Evans, Lynne and Rob Fox, Ellis Griffiths, Milt Morgan, Pat and John Morris, Rose Murphy, Don Murray, Jeff, Susan and Adrian Owen plus Susan's friend Jessie, Jack Smith, Dorothy and Eric Thomas, Gordon Thomas, Kathy Thomas, Joan Thomsen, Tony Tonack, and last but certainly not least, thank you to Enid Lewis for playing throughout the afternoon - it added a special touch to the activities. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb.

The 1st prize in the raffle - the basket of groceries - was won by HELEN GAFFNEY, 4479 Sophia St. The 2nd prize of silver jewellery was won by BERTHA MILLER, (who also carried away a bottle of whiskey, a bottle of wine, several bottles of pop, honey etc. etc. from the bottle table - she was, at the time of writing this, in Reno - hope good luck followed you there !)

The 3rd prize of a lovely musical Easter Bunny, made and donated by Tegwen Shirlaw, was won by  
MARJORIE GALE.

If you didn't attend this year, you missed a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and we hope to see even more people at next year's Tea.

Elizabeth J. Murray, President.

V a n c o u v e r

## Orpheus

Male Voice Choir

On Saturday, May 29th the Choir will be holding a concert entitled, "The Road to the Isles", at the Shaughnessy Heights United Church, at West 33rd and Granville in Vancouver. Concert starts at 7.30 p.m.

There is a second concert also on Saturday, June 12th at Gilmore Park, United Church, 8060 No 1 Rd., Richmond. Again, the concert starts at 7.30 p.m.

For ticket information call 274-4101, for general information call 274-4955.

## Cambrian Circle Singers

The Singers have begun their summer recess and will be back next fall. Their last singout was on the 18th of May.

As the '92 season comes to a close, you may wish to consider joining the Singers next Fall. If so, please call Nerys Haqq at 278-8978.

## Church Service

There will be a Church Service on June the 13th, the second Sunday in June.

**JOIN US!**

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## From Absent Friends...

Hello from...Tom Kelly of Victoria to all his friends here in Vancouver.

Graham Rees, editor of the Mid-Island Welsh Society Newsletter, which is based in Nanaimo, sends us complimentary copies of their quarterly news-sheet. If you would like to peruse over this publication, it will be pinned to the notice board in the Red Dragon. Please don't remove it from the hall, as it's kept for the Society Archives - Thank you.

# Plucked from obscurity

By IOLA SMITH

PHILIP REES

THE manufacture of musical instruments is traditionally a central European preserve but a small Welsh business is attempting to counter German and Italian domination by handcrafting concert harps for orchestras and schools.

Although Allan Shiers' business is less than a year old, he has been making harps and training craftsmen for the past 15 years. He was a lecturer at the Wales School of Instrument Making and Repair near Cardiff, and it was only when that school closed last year that he decided to become self-employed.

"I started to work as an organ builder, but when the instruments became electronic my craft skills were no longer required. So I switched to boat-building. Eventually I discovered harp-making and became apprenticed to a Celtic harp-maker, John Thomas of Pembrokeshire, who had revived the art of making the small non-pedal folk harps for the first time in 50 years."

After learning the rudiments of Celtic harp-making, Mr Shiers decided to branch out into concert harp production. It meant considerable study but he taught himself the necessary skills, becoming Britain's only concert harp-maker. His first concert instrument was finished in 1986; a year later it was played by Marisa Robles, the international harpist.

Today, his concert harps, which take eight to ten months to complete, sell for about £11,000, against £25,000 charged by German manufacturers for their top-of-the-range instruments. He said:

"Although I eventually hope to emulate the Germans' expertise, I am starting by aiming at the mid-market, producing the types of instruments traditionally made by the Italians, Russians, French and Japanese. This is because these are the ones sought by one of my main markets, Welsh schools.

"The harp is of course Wales's national instrument and, as interest in Welsh culture increases, children are learning the instrument. Half of all harps imported

into Britain are bought by the Welsh, and I am convinced that there is considerable untapped demand in the principality," he added.

Harp playing is part of rural Wales's heritage and, to be at the centre of his potential market, Mr Shiers sold his Cardiff home and used the proceeds to establish his business at a disused 19th Century woollen mill in Dyfed.

Support from the Development Board for Rural Wales helped start

the business, and Mr Shiers is planning to make one concert harp and at least one Celtic harp a year, while also doing some repair work.

He expected most commissions would come from Wales. Some have, such as an instrument for the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra's harpist. But others have come from overseas and in addition to crafting new harps, he maintains instruments for the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and the Welsh National Opera's orchestra.



Welsh heritage: Allan Shiers at home in Cardiff with the latest creation from his workshop

THE TIMES FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1992



# Welsh Society Folk Dancers

What busy people we are going to be! The ensuing eighteen months of our calendar are slowly but surely filling up.

To date, our next engagement will be on Saturday, June 19th at the Mount Pleasant Summer Festival. At this particular function, we shall possibly be dancing five of our routines. In one of these dances, we would like to use the tall style Welsh hats, as this would add to the traditional "feel" and "look" of our costumes. If anyone in the Society knows of someone who is able to loan us the use of these hats for one evening, would they please contact either Bertha Smith at 683-1335, or myself, Lynne Fox at 944-6940. The hats would be well taken care of and returned in as good condition as when they were lent. Thank you.

1994 will prove to be quite a year too. In May, there is the Nanaimo Gymanfa Ganu, to which, it seems, we have been invited. That should prove to be very entertaining. As well, the National Gymanfa is to be held in Seattle, in September of next year. With any luck, we shall be there looking very professional!

Naturally, one of the most exciting events of '94 will be the Commonwealth ' Games and although we might not be dancing at the opening of the Games, it seems there will be some "cultural highlights" going on as well as the sports.

By now, you must surely see what a good time the dancers have and the places and people we get to visit/meet. Why not consider joining us? It is not all that difficult to learn the steps and routines - just plain fun most of the time!

Give it some thought and if you decide you want to, call Jack and Bertha Smith at 683-1335.

Lynne H. F.



## VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Box 2978, Main Post Office, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X4

The V. W. M. C. will be giving a joint concert with the Dowlais Male Voice Choir on Friday, May 28th at St. Andrew's Wesley Church.

The Concert starts at 7.30 p.m. Tickets available from either Ticket-Master or Cyril Portman at 940-3318.

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### "A Stitch in Time"

In early Spring, our President, Jeff Owen installed the extended curtain rods needed in the mezzanine area in order that the windows could be opened without adversely affecting the curtains. This resulted in the need for the curtains to be extended on the six windows. They were renovated just in time for the Spring Gymanfa Ganu.

Next time you come down to the Lower Hall, look at the ten new cushions on the banquette opposite to the fireplace. The gorgeous fabric was donated by Tegwen Shirlaw (of teacozy making fame), and the cushions were made up by Eirlys Ann Thomas.

Phyllis Owens and Eirlys Ann have also been busy making twelve long white table cloths from some new sheets that were generously given to us by Gordon Davies. They have all been washed, starched and ironed, so we're all set for next year's St. David's Day Banquet and won't have to borrow them from Anne Jones' church any more. Thanks for helping us out over the last two year's, Anne.

There are thanks also to Phyllis and Ken Owens for donating sewing supplies for use at the Hall and to Bertha Miller, who very kindly gave the curtains now in use on Jack's Landing.

As you can see, there is a lot that can all do to help maintain our beloved Hall. So do partake - it's very worthwhile and can be FUN!!

Submitted by Eirlys Ann Thomas.



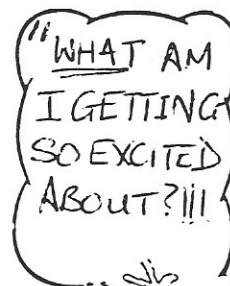
Allan Jones is doing an excellent job of getting rentals for the Cambrian Hall. This has boosted the Society's income by a significant amount. Thank you Allan.

Bearing this in mind, we'd like to advise our members once more, that it is important to let Allan know, in plenty of time, if you should wish to rent the Hall. His phone no. is 437-0304.

### *"After Glow"*

You may be interested in joining us as we invite the Orpheus choir back to the Red Dragon after their concert on the 29th.

There's sure to be music and song for evryone to sing along to.



The June newsletter will be the last before the summer recess. We'll be back again in September.

Diolch yn Fawr.



# NEWSFLASH

## Cambrian Hall Upgrading

In July of 1989, Ann Roberts, John Morris and Ieuan Lampshire-Jones made an application on behalf of the Society to the B. C. Lottery Fund, Capital Grant Program for financial assistance in upgrading our Hall.

With letters of support from the Hon. R. J. Perrault, Alderman Libby Davies, The British Consul Mr. B. Watkins and Mrs. Grace McCarthy M. L. A. and with a detailed plan of the project, an award was approved covering one third of the actual costs up to a maximum of \$7050.00. For the next three years, with expert help when necessary, but especially with efforts of dozens of volunteers the work was finally completed.

When the Hall's interior ceiling, walls and windows were painted there were perhaps twenty of the Society's members and friends on hand to do the job.

The many individuals whose outstanding contributions in both time and effort are too numerous to mention. However, the Society owes them a great debt of gratitude.

Finally in late 1992, the work was completed and the results of an audited review were presented to Victoria in order to claim the award. In April 1993 we received a B. C. Government cheque for the full award of \$7050.00.

The Schedule of Expenditures is as follows:

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1	New roof	\$5,950.
2	Removal of old insulation from attic	\$2,950.
3	Installation of new insulation	\$4,146.
4	Upper Hall ceiling	\$4,265.
5	Front of Hall (refurbishing 6 windows)	\$2,047.
6	Domed canopies (front & rear entrances)	\$2,061.
7	Upgrading electrical system	\$1,303.
8	Replacement of wooden ventilators (cancelled)	-
9	Side windows - replacement of glass (north, east and west walls)	\$0,548.

Please note that Item 8 - the wooden ventilators have since been repaired.

While we congratulate ourselves on this achievement, the work of upgrading the Hall continues.

Our next priority is to renovate and refurbish the area behind and above the stage, known as Jack's Landing. We will be asking for your continued support.

The Executive.



# Mai

# 1993

# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>APRIL 03</div> <div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</div> <div>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</div> <div>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</div> <div>25 26 27 28 29 30</div>	<div>JUNE 03</div> <div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</div> <div>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</div> <div>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</div> <div>27 28 29 30</div>					1 NOSON LAWEN
2 CHURCH SERVICE & GYMANFA GANU.	3	4	5 EXEC. MEETING.	6 FOLK DANCING  ● Full Moon	7	8
9 Mothering Sunday	10	11	12 GEN MEETING.	13 FOLK DANCING  ( Last Quarter	14	15
16	17	18 CAMBRIAN CIRCLE SINGERS - SINGOUT	19 W.A. MEETING.	20 WELSH NIGHT. FOLK DANCING  ○ New Moon	21	22
23 / 30	24 / 31  Victoria Day	25	26 FOLK DANCE PRACTICE. C.C.S. Practice	27	28  ) First Quarter	29 ORPHEUS CHOIR AFTER GLOW AT RED DRAGON

# Mehelin

# 1993

# June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>MAY 03</div> <div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</div> <div>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</div> <div>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</div> <div>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</div> <div>30 31</div>	<div>JULY 03</div> <div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</div> <div>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</div> <div>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</div> <div>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</div>	1	2 EXECUTIVE MEETING.	3 FOLK DANCING	4  ● Full Moon	5
6	7	8	9 GENERAL MEETING.	10 FOLK DANCING	11	12  ( Last Quarter
13 CHURCH SERVICE.	14	15	16	17 FOLK DANCING WELSH NIGHT	18	19 FOLK DANCERS AT SUMMER FESTIVAL
20  ○ New Moon	21	22	23 FOLK DANCERS END OF- SEASON BARBECUE	24	25	26 GOLF--- BARBECUE & DANCE, AT RED DRAGON  ) First Quarter
27	28	29	30			