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Mai i Mehefin
1995

May to June
1995

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



10 Talbot, Wrexham

Photograph by Rana Thompson, Minera

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:-

Efficiency makes me tick, and that is what I was exposed to on a sunny, Saturday afternoon, April 22nd '95, the day of the Spring Tea.

Congratulations to the Women's Auxiliary President Anne Jones and the ladies of the W.A. They worked so hard, baking, donating, sewing and preparing hundreds of gourmet sandwiches, then spent their own money to make the Spring Tea profitable.

Where was the membership at large? It was like preparing for a grand party but none of the honoured guests arrived!

Where were you? You certainly did not support the ladies in this annual fund raising venture for the Society. Please do not complain if your membership dues are increased next year!

Where were the members and friends of the Welsh Men's Choir? Many of us regularly support your concerts but the only evidence of your existence was an eye-sore - the semi constructed trophy cabinet which took up valuable and much-needed stall space!

It is like being back in the late '30s and '40s when most of the men were involved in the War effort, leaving the women of the W.A. to be the backbone of the Society, raising enough funds to pay the taxes etc. etc.

The 1995 W.A. ladies should feel very proud.

E. A. Thomas.

WELSH LESSONS/GWERS GYMRAEG

The final class for Spring Session was held May 1st. We were very pleased to have Anne and Derek Jones present. Anne brought greetings, and thanks as Vice President of the Vancouver Welsh Society to Dr. Evans, for his work in teaching the Welsh language and also thanked Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones for helping.

Anne then presented Certificates of Attendance to the students; a "Good Egg" certificate to Capt. Lampshire-Jones, and a commemorative poster signed by the students to Dr. Evans. Gifts were also given in appreciation from the students.

Dr. Evans then thanked us for our hard work and enthusiasm, reminding us to keep at it during the summer break.

The formal part of the evening being over, we then proceeded to show appreciation of a different kind, as we enjoyed the goodies everyone had provided. It was truly a fine finale to what has been a most delightful few months.

Eirlys Ann Thomas deserves thanks for the work she put into making the Poster and the Certificates, as well as the Good Egg Award. Diolch yn fawr i chi Eirlys.

We plan to start again in September with a beginners group and time set aside for the more advanced students to practice on each other. Watch the bulletin for information.

Written by Beverly Thomas.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY--

A person is never so empty as when he is full of self.

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC 1995!

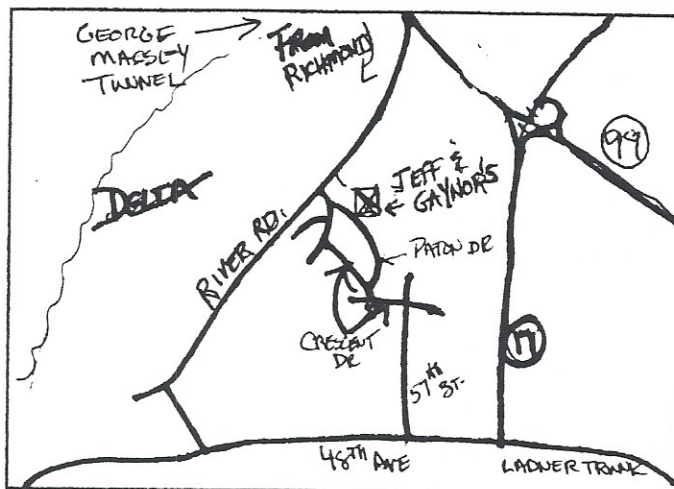
With the lovely weather we have been experiencing lately, thoughts of lazy summer days basking in the sunshine come to mind, and so a date has been set for the Annual Summer Picnic.

Sunday, July 9th

By popular demand, it is held at the home of our President, Jeff Owen and his wife, Gaynor. Everyone is welcome, just bring your own lawn chairs for sitting on and something to barbecue for lunch.

There is plenty to do; canoeing, bean bag tossing, darts, a dip in the pool or just relaxing in the lovely weather that Ladner has to offer.

So remember the above date, study the map to see where the Owen's live and don't miss out on some fun and frolics.



Drive Carefully !

Address: 5456 Paton Drive, Ladner, Delta. Tel: 946-4956.

WELSH HARPIST VISITING VANCOUVER

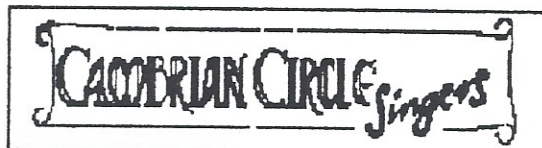
Moira Lewis will be coming to the Pacific North West in mid-May and staying here until early June.

She is hoping to attend the Gymanfa Ganu in Bellingham and will be giving a concert for the Puget Sound Welsh Association on June 10th.

The concert she planned to give in the Lower Hall on that date has now been brought forward by a week to **Saturday, June 3rd.**

For the time that she is here, Moira will be needing a place to stay and so we are

hoping that if any of our members can help out, could they please give Gaynor Evans a call at 271-3134.



The Circle Singers will end their Spring season with two rehearsals on the 2nd and 9th of June.

Nerys Haqq would like to remind everybody that the Circle Singers are always welcoming new members.

Women's Auxiliary Report

The day of the Spring Tea was sunny and warm outside, and inside the Lower Cambrian Hall, there was a very pleasant atmosphere.

All the tables carried Spring flowers and looked quite festive. Music played on the piano by Mrs. Enid Lewis added much to the ambience.

We had many favourable comments about the delicious sandwiches and cakes prepared and served for tea.

The bake table was loaded with home-made cakes, cookies and preserves which all looked delicious and were reasonably priced.

The handicraft table carried very well-made and varied items both decorative and useful. The ladies of the W.A. had spent many hours of their time and own money to make sure the stalls carried something for everyone. The "Bottle Stall" and jewellery stall were very popular with lots to buy or win.

I have to express my sincere thanks to our helpers, without whom we could not hold this fund raiser. They are Mesdames Rose Murphy, Aldene Madsen, Enid Lewis, Pam Williams and Lynne Fox; Ms. Margaret Parry and Joan Thomsen as well as Mrs. Margaret Barclay and her attractive young daughter. Our thanks as always to the gentlemen who did the "heavy work" of setting and clearing up, Messers Tony Tonack, Ken Owens, Derek Jones, Don Murray and Gordon Thomas.

We were a little disappointed in the lack of support from the parent body membership. In keeping with tradition W.A. ladies wish to continue to contribute towards the upkeep of the Cambrian Hall, to which the Social Committee also now add many hours of their time.

Perhaps it is not generally realised that our membership fees hardly cover the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletters and apart from maintenance and general upkeep of the Hall, there are Hydro and telephone bills to be paid. May I presume to ask all members who benefit from the use of the hall to keep the above facts in mind please.

All organised events entail a lot of hard work by a few members. I think when we can we should support their efforts in some way. Lastly, sincere thanks of all W.A. members to everyone who attended and contributed in our Spring Tea. You also helped to make it a success.

Raffle winners:

Basket of Groceries, Mr. Martin Gilder.

Bottle of Liquor, Ms. Betty Hughes.

Basket of "Goodies", Mrs. E. Thoma.

Anne G. Jones, W.A. President.



GOLF TOURNAMENT AND BARBECUE 1995

Held at the Delta Golf Course on

Saturday, June 24th

Tournament starts at 12:00 noon

Barbecue in Red Dragon at 6:00 p.m.

Bring your own steaks, burgers, salmon for barbecuing and for non-golfers there is a \$5.00 cover charge. Salads, condiments and desserts are provided.

Prizes are handed out during the evening.

Information and signing up, please call either Bob Marsh at 946-3612 OR Rob Barclay at 940-9112.

The Social Committee would appreciate any help given toward the setting up and clearing away.

Folk Dancing News

With a few of our group away in Europe, we are slowly winding down the season.

Our next stop is of course the Pacific North West Gymanfa Ganu in Bellingham, where we will be participating in the Noson Lawen.

After that, we will finish with the lessons until next September, perhaps with what has become a tradition with us, an End of Season Barbecue. This has yet to be decided upon by the group.

Lynne Hughes Fox.

Welsh Cakes Urgently Needed For Bellingham

We apologise for asking at such a late date, but we didn't know until recently, that the Pacific North West Gymanfa Ganu desperately needs more Welsh Cakes to sell.

If any of our members would like to help us out, then we would be most grateful for their assistance. Amounts made is up to the individual cook, and all that is required is to bring them to the Hall and someone will then bring them down to Bellingham.

Welsh Photo Cards

Happily, the first batch of cards that were designed and created for us by Eirlys Ann Thomas, have completely sold out.

New ones have been made up for us however, and with the tourist season upon us, we are hoping that they will become an attractive feature to send home to relations and friends in Wales.

They are available at the Red Dragon Pub.

"Out to Pasture"

Line Dancing has finished for the summer, but it has been a fun pastime to learn and we had expert tutelage in Pam and Keith Williams.

Many thanks go to both of you for coming down to the Hall and instructing us on a new art form! Hope we see you back in step in the autumn!

Ewloe Castle

The Shyest Stronghold in Wales

Norman H Saunders

A mile or so north-west of Hawarden, close to the busy A55 expressway in North Wales lingers one of the most interesting castles in the principality. All too few people know of it, possibly because it cannot be seen from the highway, yet the ruined stronghold at Ewloe is the most remarkable mediaeval fortress in Wales, and most certainly the shyest. This entirely Welsh bastion, one of the very few that now remain, hides itself in silent solitude amongst the tall timber of Wepre Wood oblivious of the 20th century's traffic thundering by.

From the expressway all that greets the eye is a broad expanse of meadowland, on the far side of which lies the fringe of Wepre Wood. It is here, in what is surely the loveliest of settings for a mediaeval castle that the story of Ewloe unfolds.

Clinging to the side of a steep ravine are the mellowed walls and towers of a forgotten fortress of ancient Wales.

In all Britain no other castle enjoys such superlative surroundings as this woodland stronghold at Ewloe. Nature's splendour abounds on all sides, whilst from the shrouded depths of the valley below comes the gentle voice of the diminutive Wepre brook singing its way down to the river Dee.

Scenically, the site is idyllic but from a strategic point of view the wisdom of building a castle *below* the brink of a ravine seems very questionable. This is the unique feature of Ewloe Castle, for although the northern wall must have been well-nigh impregnable, the southern rampart is actually overlooked by a great mound of earth. Possession of this high ground by an enemy would have spelled disaster, yet the very strength of this woodland stronghold lay in its apparent vulnerability — as the king of England found to his cost . . .

The story of Ewloe is somewhat obscure. Even the exact date of the building



is unclear, although it is generally accepted that much of the masonry dates from the early 13th Century. However, some kind of fortress existed here even before Llewellyn the Great reared his Welsh Tower to the tree tops in 1210 and Llewellyn the Last added the curtain walls and tower to the west some fifty years later. For Ewloe remembers a glorious victory over the invader in 1157. The earlier fortification extended over the site of the present castle, and was probably a stronghold of the mound and bailey type built by Owain Gwynedd, Prince of North Wales, shortly after his capture of Mold in 1146. Then, as now, this seemingly insignificant fortress was completely hidden from the old highway to Holywell.

Ewloe's brief but glorious hour dawned in the year 1157. King Henry II, determined to conquer all North Wales, dispatched from his great camp on Saltney Marsh, near Chester, a strong detach-

ment of seasoned troops with orders to seek out and destroy the forces of the troublesome Prince of North Wales. Utterly unknown to Henry and his strategists was the existence of the Welsh stronghold in Wepre Wood, by which his troops would have to pass on their march to Holywell.

And it was to Ewloe, the castle in ambush, that Owain the Prince sent his sons, Dafydd and Cynan, with a picked force of experienced warriors to strengthen the small garrison there.

Mistakenly believing Owain to be ignorant of King Henry's plan, and not wishing to betray their movements, the English force forsook the highway and marched across country in the direction of Northop, the route leading through a pleasant ravine in Wepre Wood. This was more than the sons of the Prince had even dared to hope, for the enemy's over-caution made the ambush perfect. In terrible silence the warriors of Wales watched the Englishmen file

into the valley below. Then, at a given signal, they leaped over the shrouded battlements upon the unsuspecting foe.

Taken by surprise and utterly confused, Henry's men offered little resistance to the fiery Celts. Many were cut down beside the singing brook, a few became prisoners, and only a handful escaped the flashing blades to limp back to Saltney with news of the defeat.

Such was the fleeting glory of the Welsh triumph at Ewloe, when the Red Dragon breathed defiance in the gentle glades of Wepre Wood.

Today Ewloe is still a castle in ambush beside the A55. Next time you pass this way, take time out to divert to Ewloe and then follow in the footsteps of King Henry's men. No fearsome warriors lurk behind the castle's mellowed walls these days. Only the gentle rustle of the trees and the quiet song of the streamlet disturb the stillness of this age-old place. ❁

THE ARCHIVES PROJECT

Do you know the date?

"Which year was the St. David's Day Banquet held in the Cambrian Hall, when Mrs. Angel Jones, President of the Cambrian Women's Auxiliary was general convener?"

"Dr. J. Ellis Griffiths (acted) as chairman?"

"Toasts to 'St. David & Wales' by Dr. W. G. Black, and 'to Vancouver' by Mayor Geo. C. Miller?"

"Taking part in a programme of vocal solos, duets, violin selections, readings and choral numbers by the Cymric Glee singers conducted by Mr. Ifor Roberts were: Mrs. Mary Lewis; Ms. Nesta Hudson; Mr. A. A. Clarke; Mr. J. L. Evans; the Misses E. Phillips, M. Jones; Mrs. Margaret Thomas; Ifor Roberts; Mr. C. E. Evans L.R.S.M.; Mrs, A. Jones. Accompanists were: Mable Setter A.L.C.M. L.R.A.M. A.R.C.M.; Ann Boyd Knill A.L.C.M. and Mr. Morgan Williams."

Quotes taken from a newspaper cutting accompanied by a picture of Mrs. Angel Jones in Welsh costume. The newspaper is not named but the spelling of "program" suggests it may have been an American publication - perhaps "Ninnau" or "Y Drych".

Which year did B.B.C. Wales do the Welsh Language interviews at the Society where it was mentioned in Malcolm Parry's column in the "Vancouver Sun"?

Which year did the "Vancouver Cambrian Male Voice Choir" do a broadcast at C.B.V.'s studio at 660 Howe?

Tidbits

In 1964 Jack (Taffy) Williams received a letter from the then Minister of Finance, (signature illegible) in reply to his query of why the design for the 1964 dollar commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the 1864 conference of the Fathers of Confederation did not have a leek or daffodil as well as a fleur-de-lys; a thistle, a Tudor rose and a shamrock, which contained the following figures taken from the first official census taken under the British North America Act, 1871.

French
1,082,940.
Irish
846,414.
English
706,369.
Scottish
549,946.
Others (including other
British Isles origins)
7,773.

In 1967 a Ben Jones Snr. who describes himself as 'a nonagenarian', donated a Welsh flag to the Cambrian Society that originally belonged to his father W. D. Jones, who for many years was the light keeper at Brockton Point in Stanley Park who 'proudly flew the flag on special occasions'.

Desperately Looking For.....

More information on the building and opening of the Cambrian Hall in 1929.

Elizabeth Murray,
Archives Project Co-ordinator.

APRIL
S M T W T F S
1
2 3 4 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

Ma / May

JUNE
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18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	<u>Executive Meeting</u> 3	4	5	Nelson 6 Lawen
Church Service & Arpana Dance 7	8	9	<u>General Meeting</u> 10	11	12	13
14	15	16	<u>W. A. Meeting at Noon</u> 17	18	19	20
Mother's Day						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Victoria Day (CAN.)					
28	29	30	31			
	Memorial Day (U.S.A.)					

MAY
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28 29 30 31

June / Mehefin

JULY
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23 24 25 26 27 28 29

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal 2	Maira Lewis' Concert at Red Dragon 3
4	5	6	<u>Executive Meeting</u> 7	8	L.C.S. Rehearsal 9	10
Church Service 11	12	13	<u>General Meeting</u> 14	15	16	17
			Flag Day (U.S.A.)			
18	19	20	<u>W. A. Meeting at Noon</u> 21	22	23	24
Father's Day						
25	26	27	28	29	30	