

TACHWEDD I RHAGFYR  
1993



NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER  
1993

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

*Cambrian News*

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Looking west across Llŷn to Bardsey.  
- Bill Meadows

CAMERIAN HALL, 215 EAST 17th AVE, VANCOUVER .B.C. V5V 1A6. Telephone (604) 876-2815.....

# Hallowe'en Fun Night

October 30th was a busy night down at the Red Dragon. I'm happy to report that quite a large crowd showed up and some had even dressed up outrageously for the occasion!

We'd like to send our thanks to the following people; Gwen and Tony Tonack, for putting up the spooky decorations - and by the way Tony, we loved the shirt and tie combination of black and orange! Betty and Milt Morgan for playing the roles of "bookies" at the Chepstow Races - loved the hat Milt! Margaret and Rob Barclay for organising the games played - great stuff there - and all the team members for being such good sports.

Also we'd like to acknowledge the effort made by the Social Committee in putting an evening like this together and for the delicious chili and buns.

# Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8th at 7.30 p.m.

As so many important decisions are made at the A. G. M., such as the election of officers for '94 and also the dues for membership fees etc., we value your contributions at this time.

Please try to attend.

## Membership

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheques or money orders payable to: "The Welsh Society of Vancouver".  
( Fees on new memberships are pro-rated )

Send your membership renewals to:  
Joan Thomsen  
Membership Secretary  
Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave.  
Vancouver B.C., V5V 1A6.

Type of Membership (Circle one)

Regular: \$30.00      Family: \$50.00

Seniors: \$17.00      Out-of-Town: \$15.00

## Christmas Dinner Dance

This is the last reminder before the December Newsletter, on the details of the C. D. D.

It will be held on Saturday, December 4th, at the Red Dragon. If you are planning on attending, please let a member of the Social Committee know by the deadline - November 20th - as there are not many tickets left.

As always the meal is catered by Jordans and musical entertainment is provided by Hot Hit Productions.

Tickets cost \$25.00 for members and \$28.00 for guests.

Cocktails begin at 6.30 p.m. and Dinner begins promptly at 7.30 p.m.

Dancing at 9.00 p.m. onwards to 1.00 p.m.



## Mulled Wine Evening

This is one of the nicest evenings down at the Red Dragon, I think. The Hall looks so festive and cosy, so it's well worth popping in and singing a few Christmas carols accompanied by Arthur, and supping delicious mulled wine, listening to Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales" being read and enjoying one another's company.

## Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu

Mark down Labour Day weekend Sept 1 - 4, 1994 on your calendar now!

In cae you didn't know, the 1994 Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu will be held in Bellevue, Washington.

Yes, the 63rd annual National Gymanfa Ganu will be within driving distance of all of us in the Lower Mainland and our good friends in the Puget Sound Welsh Association will be hosting the Welsh of North America and Wales.

Alan Upshall and his organising committee has secured the Hyatt Regency Hotel and the nearby convention centre in Bellevue, right across Lake Washington from Seattle for all the events.

There will be a traditional Noson Lawen, seminars featuring topics such as poetry of Wales, Welsh cooking, folk dancing and Welsh emigration, an Eisteddfod with open competitions in solo voice and choral performance, a folk concert, a grand concert featuring Cor Meibion Llanelli and of course the voices of the Welsh masses in song.

Look for further information regarding the 1994 National Gymanfa Ganu during the coming months. In the meantime, reserve Labour Day weekend for Bellevue, Washington and the 1994 WNGGA.

- Lynn Owens-Whalen

## Masthead

President: Jeffrey Owen

Secretary: Gaynor Evans

Treasurer: Jack Smith

Membership Secretary: Joan Thomsen

Newsletter editors: Lynne and Rob Fox

## **Folk Dancers**

Thank you, to May Lievesley from the dance group, for giving your lovely Welsh hat to us. All contributions/gifts and donations are gratefully received, especially hats! They look very smart in some of our demonstration dances.

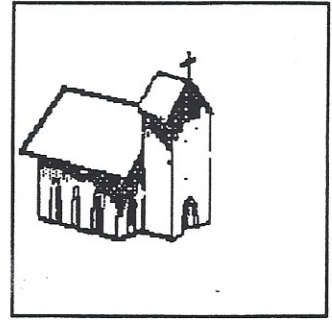
On Thursday September 30th, we had tremendous fun trying out new steps and routines under the instruction of Terry Jones, who teaches Cornish dance to the group "Bagas Byghan". This lady really knows folk dancing inside and out. We are very grateful to her for giving up her time and showing us some dances from other Celtic lands. As well, she brought two visitors with her, Terry Chynoweth and Mary Tidmarsh from Milwaukee, Wis. These ladies belong to a Welsh Folk Dance group called "Awel Y Ddraig". It is always interesting to meet new people and folk dancing is providing us with a vehicle for doing just that.

November 27th is the day that Margaret Daniels arrives from Auckland. On the following Thursday, December 2nd, she will more than likely be instructing us in some new dances, and on December 9th, we're aiming to have our annual Christmas Pot-Luck supper after practising. Spouses are invited as always. So, be there - or be square dancing!

Those interested and maybe just a little curious about us, are invited to join us one Thursday evening, 7.30 p.m., Cambrian Hall. If you require further information, please call Jack and Bertha Smith at: 683-1335.

Lynne H. F.

## **Church Service**



In November, the Sunday service will precede the Gymanfa Ganu on the 7th.

For December, it will be on the 12th, same day as the Children's Christmas Party.

As refreshment is served after the church services, a small contribution to the table, if possible, would be appreciated.

## **Cambrian Circle Singers**

The Singers are having rehearsals on November 5th, and 17th at the Cambrian Hall, beginning at 8.00 p.m.

Singouts in the next couple of months include:

Carleton Hospital, 4125 Canada Way, Burnaby at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10th.

Kiwani's Lodge, 990 22nd Avenue, West Vancouver at 2.15 p.m. on Sunday, November 14th.

Inglewood Lodge, 725 Inglewood Drive - (off Taylor Way), West Vancouver, 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 24th.

Nerys and her group are always pleased to welcome new members. If you wish to join them please give Nerys a call at 278-8978.

## Welsh Night

For those who are interested in sharing Welsh conversation and perhaps brushing up on your knowledge of the language, every third Thursday of the month is Welsh Night, unless otherwise specified, down in the Red Dragon. Please check with Ann Roberts for details - 321-4418. Beverages served.

### RIDING THE RAILS THROUGH WALES

The Toronto Sunday Sun, May 30/93.

By ROBERT BARR, PORTHMADOG, WALES (AP)

The Fairlie patent double-bogie steam locomotive is a Victorian absurdity, a technological dead-end, a 30 tonne metal mutant with smokestacks at both ends and a cab in the middle. Sensible railroads gave up on it a century ago, but the Festiniog Railway has just built a new Fairlie.

"The Festiniog has been renowned since its earliest days as leading the field in narrow gauge railway technology," said Michael Hart, a director of the railroad. The new Fairlie christened David Lloyd George, gives the railway a stable of three. The first was built in 1879 and the second exactly a century later.

### EFFICIENT

Whatever their technical limitations, the little push-me-pulls-you engines are superbly efficient at extracting 11 pounds, (about \$20 Cdn.) from a tourist's wallet. For that fare, the traveller gets a 21 kilometre ride up the Dwyryd River Valley to Blaenau Ffestiniog on meandering rails that are just 59.7 centimetres apart. (The town has two letter "F's", but the railroad just one because of an act of Parliament that established the railroad in 1832 spelled it "Festiniog".) About 300,000 people rode the line last year, and the railroad's 60 employees make it the biggest industry in town.

Because the railroad creates jobs in a depressed region, the European Community paid 45% of the approximately \$630,000 Cdn. it cost to build the locomotive. David Lloyd George, named after the Prime Minister who began his law career in Porthmadog, was built in the railway's shops and is surely the best Fairlie ever.

Drawing on 100 years of technological advances, the Festiniog's mechanics fitted the engine with a welded boiler, raised the pressure by 25% and added a super-heater to get more oomph from the steam. The improvements however, are all hidden.

- Courtesy of Mrs. Dorothy E. Fox, Whitby, Ontario.

## ***Women's Auxiliary***

A very good turnout to the October meeting, everybody was finally back into a Fall mood.

We were sorry to hear Eunice Johnson has not been well and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Veronica Gilder, Anne Jones, Betty Morgan and Joan Wilkinson will cater the Christmas Luncheon on December 15th.

A Nominating Committee for next year's officers was struck; Phyllis Owens to chair with members Gwenfyl Jones and Marion Armstrong.

Gaynor Owen will bring supplies to the meeting of November 17th for members to make Christmas Angels, which will then be sold as fund-raisers. As these are the same angels as the children make at their Christmas party, it's hoped that even those of us who are all thumbs will be able to make them!

Watch this space regarding news of the Metro Pantomime.

Elizabeth Murray, President.

## ***Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir***

The V. O. M. V. C. will be giving a "Road to the Isles" concert on Saturday, November 20th, at 7.30 p.m., White Rock Baptist Church, 1657 140th Street, Surrey.

Christmas Concerts on:

Saturday, December 11th, 7.30 p.m. at Gilmore Park United Church, corner of #1 Road and Blundell, Richmond.  
Saturday, December 18th, 7.30 p.m. at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, corner of West 33rd Avenue and Granville Street, Vancouver.

The choir rehearse on Tuesday evenings at John Oliver Secondary School. 530 East 41st Avenue, Room 201 at 7.30 p.m.

More information available from Dave Daniels - 275-1755; Milt Morgan - 298-6085 or Jimmy Murphy - 526-2960.



## VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

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

If you read last month's Newsletter and were wondering what a "blues" concert was, I had better explain..

You see, it has nothing to do with Rhythm and Blues, it has everything to do with the jackets worn by the good gentlemen of the V. W. M. C. for certain concerts! (Thank you for pointing this out to us Gwyn - we'd be lost without you!) Sincere apologies to our gentle readers for any confusion that may have arisen.

Concerts given by the Choir for the remainder of '93 are as follows:

Friday, 12th November, 8.00 p.m. - Concert in Castlegar.  
Saturday, 13th November, 8.00 p.m. - Trail Community Theatre, Trail.  
Saturday, 4th December, 8.00 p.m. - Abbey Arts Centre, Abbotsford.  
Friday 10th and Saturday 11th December, 8.00 p.m. - "Nowell, Nowell",  
Christmas Concerts at St. Andrew's Wesley Church, Vancouver.  
Tuesday, 14th December, 8.00 p.m. - Surrey Arts Centre Theatre.

Tickets and/or information is available from Sheena McDonald - 431-9220.

**Entertainment '94...**Books are on sale now. If you're interested in buying one, the cost is \$46.00, including G. S. T. - these are a means of fundraising for the Society.

The books can be obtained by either calling Gaynor Evans at 271-3134, or by asking for them at the Red Dragon.

**Sounds Remarkable...**If you haven't already heard, we have a brand new piano in the upstairs Hall.

Obtained recently as the old one had seen better days, the piano came from Janisch Pianos on Main Street - thanks go to Phyllis Owens for finding such a good deal on behalf of the Society.

Several people have contributed towards getting a new instrument, including the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir, who donated \$500.00. Many thanks to all who have given so generously, as this new piano is gorgeous and has a beautiful sound to it.

The following review is the first instalment of a series we shall be putting in the Newsletters. It is taken from "Forbes" magazine, December 21, 1992 issue, and is by Dana Wechsler-Linden and Matt Rees. We thank Peter Hill of the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir for lending us the article.

### A COUNTRY THAT WORKS

Carpeted in shades of green and dotted with monumental grey castles, little Wales has always been pastoral. Yet it was also a land of coal, of begrimed miners and dark slag heaps. As recently as the 1950s, half of the Welsh working population toiled in coal and steel. Today, of the 230 coal mines once active in Wales, only 4 remain. The steel industry, which once offered jobs to 250,000 workers, now employs fewer than 18,000.

But Wales - a land the size of Massachusetts and with a population (2.9 million) only half as large - does not sit around mourning its losses. It has been remarkably successful at beating out bigger, richer competitors in the game of attracting foreign investment. With only 5% of the U. K.'s population, Wales has received more than 20% of its foreign investment over the past few years. In the year ended April 1992 that was US\$2 billion, more than any other region in Great Britain, which in turn gets more foreign investment than any other country in Western Europe. Nearly one in four Welsh manufacturing workers now has a foreign employer.

Wales hasn't escaped recession, but the flow of investment has cushioned the region. Six years ago Wales' unemployment rate was 14%, three percentage points above the British average. Today, at 10%, it's high, but at least it's a bit below the U. K. average. Construction by foreigners is remaking the landscape. Near the town of Brigend, nestled in bracken covered hills once mined for coal, Sony Corp. is building a \$300 million television plant - its eighth major investment in Wales. Sony now employs 2,600 Welsh workers.

Down in Barry, Dow Corning is erecting a \$270 million expansion to its existing silicone plant. Across from Dow, on the site of an abandoned steel mill on the docks at Cardiff, Wales' capital, a big Dutch insurance company is putting up a 115,000 square-foot office tower.

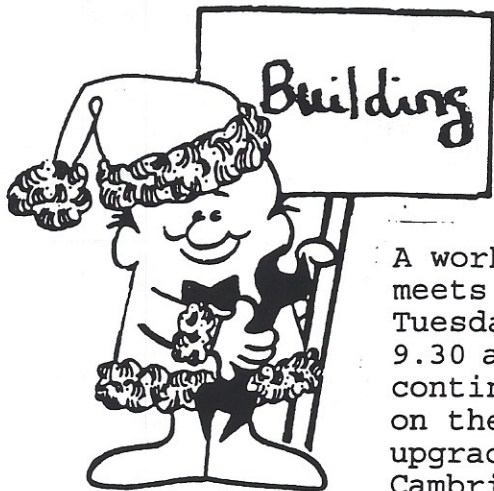
Perhaps you saw Walter Pidgeon and Maureen O'Hara in "How Green Was My Valley," and remember the Rhondda Valley, where the film was set. In the Rhondda, the last of about 50 coal mines was closed last year. On the site of a former slag heap, Welsh entrepreneur, Alfred Gooding, the son of a South Wales miner, runs his \$140 million (1991 revenues) Race Electronics. The company supplies circuit boards to foreign computer makers, including IBM and Brother Industries.

In a world where many different kinds of political jurisdictions -from American cities and states, to Eastern European countries, to Russia - are vying for capital investment from foreigners, it is worth asking why little Wales has been so successful at getting the money. Tax breaks are not the answer. At 35%, Wales' effective corporate tax rate is higher than Ireland's and southern Italy's. Government assistance to foreign corporations in Wales for things like new plant construction and extensions is generous, running at about \$40 million a year. But places like Spain and Portugal are much freer with such spending.

So what does attract investment? Despite everything you thought you knew about Welsh labour militancy, Welsh workers are the main draw.

Continued next month.





A work party meets every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m., to continue work on the upgrading of Cambrian Hall.

At the moment, they are painting the back hall, behind the stage, as part of the renovations, which includes work on Jack's Landing.

Anyone who is interested in helping to get things moving along, is welcome to join the group. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please, bring your own lunch.

If you have any queries, call Jack Smith at 683-1335.

## "Quiz' Night"

This is just an idea for getting a group of us together one evening in winter and having some fun. DON'T PANIC! This is not University Challenge - more like Trivial Pursuit!

I would be interested in hearing comments from members who happen to think this is a good idea.

The plan is to have a few teams and test their knowledge on Wales and maybe a few other places as well. Perhaps we'll have some warming grub on hand also.

I already have some ideas in the offing, but I would welcome suggestions from others too. If you have something to contribute, then please give me a call at 944-6940.

Lynne H. Fox.



### You Don't Have to Be a Mom!

The Kinsmen Rehabilitation Foundation of B.C. is actively recruiting volunteers for its annual Kinsmen Mothers' March. Please consider volunteering an hour or two of your time to canvass your neighbourhood between January 15-31 in support of British Columbians living with physical disabilities. Your donation of time and effort will go a long way in assisting individuals and their families to discover new and innovative ways of living independently with a physical disability. Your call will be welcome at 736-9171.

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