

Tachwedd i Rhagfyr
1996

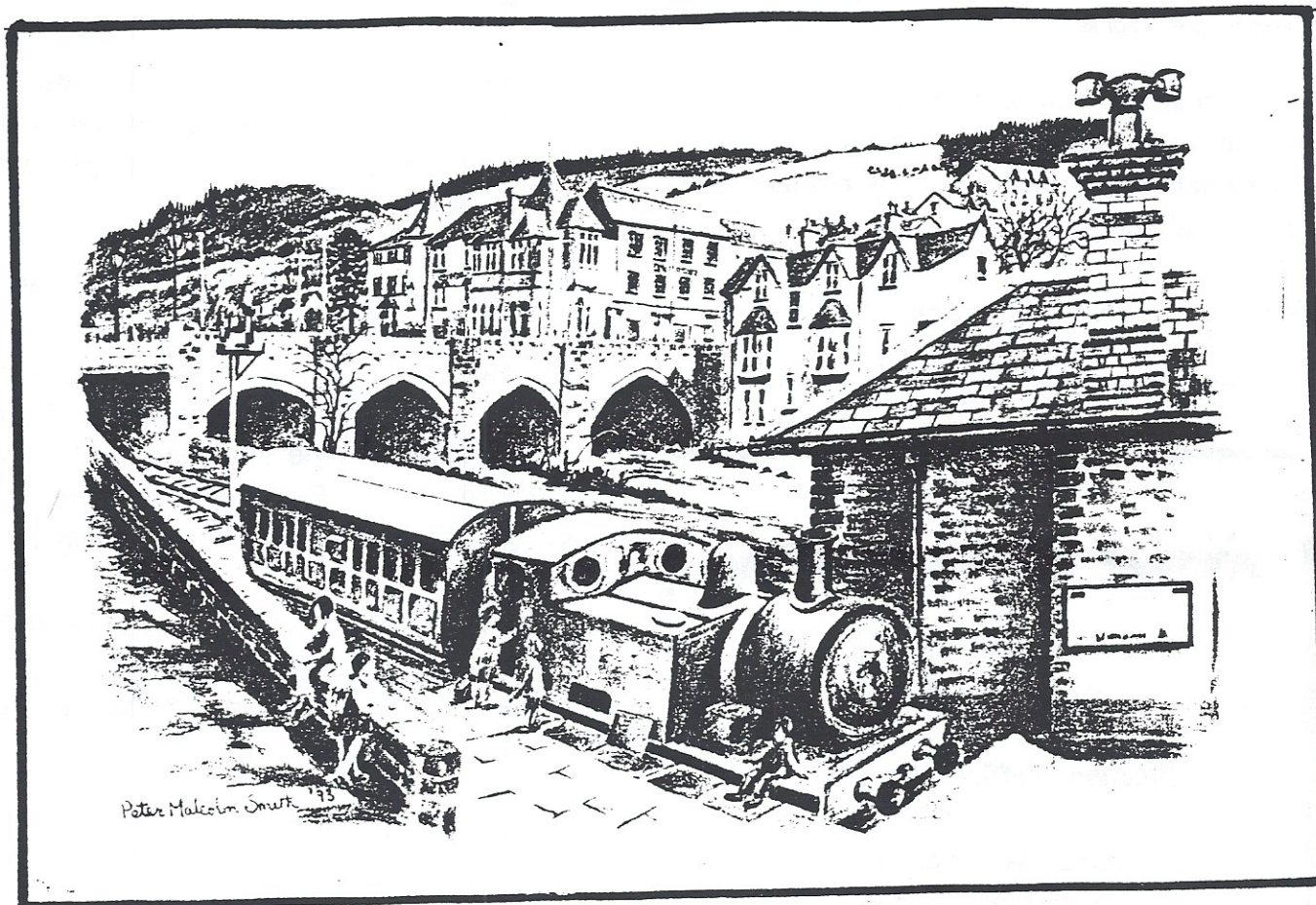


November to December
1996

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



"Llangollen"
by Peter Malcolm

"Diolch Yn Fawr I Chi, Tegwen Fach"

Those of you who attended the Noson Lawen on November 2nd, 1996, saw the elegant red crushed-velvet drapes that covered the dart board wall.

A few years ago, Tegwen Shirlaw, sister-in-law to the late David James and an active member of the W.A., donated the velvet fabric for the cushions in the fireplace seating area. Now she has donated enough fabric for these drapes which were "custom made" by Eirlys Ann Thomas.

They will certainly enhance special events at the Red Dragon for many years to come.

Thank you Tegwen.

Written by E.A. Thomas.

And as an added footnote to E.A. Thomas' "Thank You" to Mrs. Shirlaw, we must also thank the creative lady who turned the lovely red fabric into such beautiful drapes for us.

Diolch Yn Fawr Iawn Eirlys Ann.

An Update About "Y Casgliad" Quilt

As you may recall in the Spring of 1993, the Poultney, Vt. area St. David's Society started a project to make a quilt made up of Squares from each of the Welsh Societies in North America.

The finished quilt is named "Y Casgliad", "The Gathering" and will remain in the possession of the Poultney Society - being available to other Welsh groups to display at festival events.

In September 1995, the quilt was displayed at the National Gymanfa Ganu at Harrisburg, Pa. The Vancouver Welsh Society is very fortunate that Phyllis Owens and her daughter Lynn Owens- Whalen attended the event and saw the quilt.

Whilst there, they met up with their cousin Buddy from Kansas, he recently sent photos of the quilt to Phyllis and she has donated them to the Welsh Society.

The Quilt is on a background of Welsh green, offset in the four corners with Welsh symbols; the daffodil, the lady's tall hat, a castle and the Welsh harp. The Welsh flag is in the centre. The square from the Vancouver Welsh Society, designed by Eirlys Ann Thomas and embroidered by Wendy Chappel is in J-7.

Thanks to Phyllis' cousin, we now know that there was a successful ending to the Quilt Saga. Quite an achievement by the Poultney group.

Eirlys Ann Thomas.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 11th,
Starting at 7:30 pm

Election of officers for 1997.

Please try and attend,
Your Input Counts

Mulled Wine Evening

Saturday, November 30th

In the Red Dragon

Decorating of the Tree
Caroling, "A Child's Christmas in Wales"
Music included in early Christmas festivities.



"Sweet Songs of Christmas"



Family Concert featuring

The Richmond Singers

Sunday, 1st December at 2:00 p.m.

Broadmoor Baptist Church

8140 Saunders Road, Richmond

Refreshments served

Tickets \$8; Seniors/Students \$5
Children under 12 free

Phone Veronica at 274-4274.

Christmas Dinner Dance Prizes!!!

Squares on Sale In the Red Dragon

Don't Miss Out !.

Christmas Dinner Dance 1996

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH
Red Dragon

JORDAN'S CATERING

Music Provided by Hot Hit Productions

Raffle and Door Prizes
Dancing until late!

Tickets

\$27 Members, \$30 Guests

Call Gaynor Owen at 946-4956 or Gwen
Tonack at 738-3377

First come, first served!



ATTENTION

all those with children and
grandchildren!

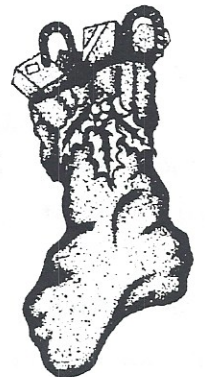
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 15th

Names of those attending must be in by
November 30th

Call Gaynor Owen at 946-4956

"...and the stockings were
hung
by the chimney with care
in the hopes that Saint
Nicholas
soon would be there"





Obituary
**Sally Highet - Greatly
Missed By All**

We have lost a most wonderful, elegant and empathetic member.

On October 12th, after a lengthy indisposition, Sally Highet passed away in West Vancouver at the fine age of 93 years.

Anybody who has watched the recent T.V. series on the Great War will be surprised to learn that Sally, (nee Philips) born in 1903 in Merthyr Tydfil, had, before that most appalling of wars began, left Wales in 1913 for Canada and Saskatchewan. We should endeavour to comprehend the enormous experiences social changes and more that Sally's life spanned.

Sally's family and, yes, the eight girls, (Gladys, Anne Sally, Alice, Jean, Rae, Margaret and Addie) settled in Saskatoon, (that is where she developed her love of ice-hockey). Her dad was for many years employed as a printer, but the encroaching depression found the family in dire need.

Sally forsook her personal life to work to maintain the family for many years.

It is an extraordinary feature of the closeness of her family that the sisters called each other almost every day by phone and visited each other at least once a year up to the present.

After moving to Vancouver in 1936, Sally married Captain William Highet, a B.C. Coastal

pilot in 1939. They settled in Victoria, where Sally worked in the Department of Highways office. When her husband passed away in 1956, Sally and her daughters, Sandra and Julie, found the times trying.

Moving back to Vancouver, Sally was soon highly involved with the Welsh Society of Vancouver. She is remembered by members as always there, always working, and always full of positive enthusiasm.

Her particular joy was singing. She was an accomplished soloist and was a member of many of the Society's choral groups. In 1968, she was the indispensable registrar of the Welsh Eisteddfod that once graced the Vancouver scene.

Recent years always saw Sally at almost all Society functions and a valued member of the Women's Auxiliary.

It is Sally's presence that we particularly remember and miss. The ever smiling, encouraging, positive presence of Sally exuded a love of all persons, all things and all activities that had a Welsh connection.

Hedd, nefol, hedd, Sally cariad.

written by Neville Thomas.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

The October meeting of the W.A. was a small one, due to members being out of town or suffering from various viruses. The meeting was conducted by Beverly Thomas in the absence of Anne Jones.

We were all saddened by the death of Sally Highet. She will be missed by all and we will remember her with much love. Sally was very active in the W.A. for many years and continued to attend up until last Spring.

We have been given a framed, illuminated "Christmas Tree" picture by Tegwen Shirlaw's sister Anne Rankin. This will be raffled - the draw to be held at the Christmas Party. We have also made more of the cheery red birdies to hang on your Christmas Tree. These will be offered for sale at some of the upcoming functions.

Our donation of \$1500 towards the purchase of a dishwasher for the new kitchen was confirmed and we are still planning to give towards a filing cabinet for the Archives.

We hope everyone will be healthy and happy for our next meeting November 20th.

Beverly Thomas, W.A. Secretary.

Heartfelt Thanks Given

The following people are thanked in recognition of hard work and generous donations:

Ann & Ron Watkins of Manteca, California, for their donation of a stove for the new kitchen and Spring bulbs for the garden.

Milt Morgan and Don Murray, our able-bodied gardeners who tilled the soil and planted the aforementioned Spring bulbs into the flower beds in front of the Hall.

All the ladies, who transferred all the items from the old kitchen into the new, thereby making it a more organised and better place to work in.

Jeff Owen, who cleverly found a way for electrical wires to travel through an underground maze into the new kitchen.

Alan Jones and Neville Thomas, for their hard work in creating the Dylan Thomas Weekend, which as we now know was a roaring success.

Mer Montador and Margaret Monck for trying so hard to fight City Hall on the paving of Watson Street issue.

Diolch Yn Fawr I Bawb.

FOLK DANCING NEWS

The Noson Lawen proved to be a lot of fun for the Folk Dancers, earlier this month. Everyone had a great time dancing and they gave an excellent performance.

The dance group meet on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. for practice sessions. Newcomers and those interested in watching are invited to attend.

Church Service



The next service will be the Carol Service held on Sunday 15th December, at 11:00 a.m. in the lower Hall.

Refreshment served afterward.

Obituary

Ros Thomas, We Will Remember Him

Ros Eri Morris Thomas passed away on October 18th, 1996. His wife, Dwynwen, passed away four years ago. He will be deeply missed by his three sons, Morris, Maldwyn and John, and by his sister, Olive David.

Ros was born in Llanelli, Wales on January 28th, 1911. The family emigrated to Saskatchewan, Canada in 1920 and moved again in 1929 to British Columbia. Those were tough times, but Ros was a willing, hard worker who undertook a wide variety of jobs.

The war years meant an enormous amount to Ros as they do to all veterans. Ros served for five years with the Seaforth Highlanders. Whilst in Italy he received the Military Cross and was also shot in his leg.

On his return to Canada, the legion played a major part in his life - he served as President of the North Burnaby Legion #148. Much of his time was spent visiting infirm veterans and catering for their needs. Till the end, Ros carried himself with the finest of

military bearing.

Ros' career was in social work. He worked at the George Derby Centre where he was a physical training instructor and later for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Shaughnessy until he retired twenty five years ago at the age of sixty.

Being Welsh was central to his life. Throughout his years in Vancouver, he was a constant presence at Welsh Society affairs and functions. He served as President of the Society and became a Life Member. An annual joy was travelling to wherever the North American Gymanfa Gany was being held where he sung with gusto and warmly embraced the many North American Welsh he had come to know.

During the last days of his life, when Ros bore his sickness courageously, he apparently reverted to speaking only in his native Welsh.

A distinguished and loyal figure at so many Society events, Ros' presence will certainly be missed. The Society had no truer friend. Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to his family and, in particular his surviving sister, Olive David, who is one of our treasured members

written by Neville Thomas.

Welsh Lessons Gwers Gymraeg

We are well begun and have welcomed back all last year's members except Gwyn and Gaynor Evans and Steve Wilcockson who is in Wales.

This last Monday we had a review and we are beginning to get used to the new format. There is more conversation and less formality which pleases the students who have a smattering of the language and also last years' beginners who are anxious to spread their wings.

Beverly Thomas.

Membership Report

The Welsh Society has 186 paid-up members to date.

We send out warmest welcomes to the following people:

Gordon Eddy, Vancouver, B.C.

Nigel and Reesa Williams, Vancouver, B.C.

Theophelus Jones, Abbotsford, B.C.

Brett Davies, Vancouver, B.C.

Also welcome back to returning members Selwyn and Jeanné Jones,

Requesting Photos Please

The photo album chronicler always looks out for photos for the albums you love to look at, at the Red Dragon. Many thanks go to Elizabeth Murray and Greta Taylor for their recent invaluable contributions.

If you have any photos that you would like to donate, would you please leave them at the bar area with your name, and the name and date of the event, (even as far back as 1970-ish!) Attention: Eirlys Ann Thomas.

Written by Eirlys Ann Thomas.

New Kitchen Completed!

And it looks just fabulous. Everything has a place.....and well, you know the rest!

We are still asking members and friends of the Society for financial donations towards the New Kitchen Fund. To that end, the ladies of the W.A. have presented a cheque to the Parent Body for \$1500. However, a great deal more is needed, as this undertaking was a large expense, but a necessary one.

The Dylan Thomas Circle of Friends

Short months ago, a few admirers of Dylan met to discuss the formation of a Dylan Thomas group. We did not envisage how successful it would finally become. Contact was made with the Dylan Thomas Society of Great Britain, (Swansea) and to our delight, a little later, they volunteered to come and help in our inauguration.

There were three prime movers at our end, Neville Thomas, Ted Langley and Alan Jones. Neville's organisational skills soon had duties delegated and our plans took shape.

There was tremendous publicity, libraries, book stores, colleges, television, newspapers and several radio appearances by our visitors, Ted Langley and Alan Jones. We even had a full page in the Vancouver Sun.

Our ten Swansea guests arrived, were picked up by a limo, (that's another story) and were shown all the sights including Stanley Park, Chinatown, Gastown, Cypress Bowl and Shannon Falls. They had a wonderful Sunday tour, capped by a splendid meal put on at the Horseshoe Bay home of Ted and Pam Langley.

They visited Victoria for a two days and were invited to Vancouver City Hall where they gave greetings from the Mayor of Swansea and were given a further Vancouver Tour by Alderman Don Bellamy. They also performed at Langara College,

The response to the Friday performance was fantastic, a sell out days before and people turned away at the door. Their readings were very professional, moving and humorous.

Saturday morning saw an improvised programme, again first rate. This was followed by an excellent ploughmans' lunch thanks to Tima Jones, Kathy Thomas and Pam Langley.

Presentations were made to our Welsh friends, (including 12 copies of the Vancouver Sun,) and after seven hectic days, they were on a long return journey to the City by the Bay, (Swansea, not San Francisco).

Saturday afternoon, we heard an inspiring lecture by Professor Ralph Maud, an eminent scholar and a foremost world authority on Dylan. A brief General Meeting was well attended and an excellent steering committee was formed. The Circle is in good hands.

Saturday evening saw Under Milk Wood read with feeling by ten of our finest actors:- Rob Barclay, Nerys Haqq, Alan Jones,

David Lintern - (Victoria), David Mason, Don Murray, Elizabeth Murray, John Phillips, Rod Sykes and Kathy Thomas.

In an excellent audience, few knew that sitting at the back of our Hall was a larger than life figure, the great Welsh, Bass-Baritone, Bryn Terfel. Neville Thomas in a sacrifice beyond the call of duty - his commitment to the Circle - turned down the chance of a round of golf with Bryn on Saturday morning. So John Pritchard, Gwilym Evans and Tecwyn Roberts took up the challenge instead.

Maestro Terfel visited our Red Dragon, (Sailor's Arms for that evening) signing autographs, having a beer, posing for photographs, playing darts - (I believe Jeff Owen beat him) Then he was off to Toronto, New York and David Letterman.

Another terrific meal was put on by the ladies of the Welsh Society. Drinks flowed, thanks to Gwen and Tony Tonack and the bar committee. Music thanks to Enid Lewis. Diolch for your support and there was so much support - Paul Lievesley and his aide, Gerry Da Kova did lights and sound, this was a very necessary function to our players, they ran it smoothly and professionally. Rob Fox, our video cameraman for two days, Rob Barclay, carpenter extraordinaire built and painted nine podiums, repainted by Don Murray, Margaret Barclay at the door, members of the Vancouver Orpheus Choir rendered the harmonic Rev. Eli Jenkins prayer; Phyllis Owens and Tima Jones for making over 1500 Welsh Cakes. It was a total group effort, certainly we had an able general, Neville Thomas but even Napoleon without his troops was only a little corporal. Success does not occur without the devotion and hard work of many unsung heroes.

The Dylan Thomas Circle thanks to the initial grant by the Welsh Society and it's continued support is now being formally set up and has an excellent steering committee and a healthy enthused membership. Our Swansea visitors have phoned several times to thank Vancouver - we thank them.

The crowning glory, Dylan Thomas' daughter Aeronwy Ellis Thomas has agreed in a four page letter to be our honorary president. Anyone who has books or tapes, etc. they would like to donate to the Circle of join with them, call 437-0304. Finally, thanks to all those helpers and congratulations. It was a weekend that will go down as one of the most memorable in the recent annals of our Society.

Written by Alan Jones

Bryn Terfel

He came, he sang, he conquered our hearts!

Saturday evening, October 26th, we were delighted by Bryn Terfel's visit to the Welsh Hall.

Since he won the Under-25 Blue Riband at the Porthmadog Eisteddfod in 1987, he has had a meteoric rise to fame and is now one of the most renowned bass-baritones.

The Society is indebted to Neville Thomas for his diligence in arranging for Bryn's presence.

Members Tecwyn Roberts, Gwilym Evans and John Pritchard were thrilled to play golf with Bryn on the Saturday morning. He proved to be a most competent golfer, but needs a bit more practice to gain parity with his musical abilities.

He felt most "cartrefol" at the Hall and enjoyed a bit of Dylan Thomas and a dart game with Jeff Owen and Tony Tonack. Tony reports that he threw a "mean dart".

All the members who attended his concert at the Orpheum on Sunday night were enthralled, especially when Bryn greeted us from the stage in Welsh and sang a medley of Welsh folk songs.

All were impressed that he sat for one-and-a-half hours after his concert to greet fans and to sign autographs. We were so happy with his visit. He is an extraordinary ambassador for Wales.

We wish him well during the rest of his recital tour, his appearance on the David Letterman Show and his performances in Chicago in the opera "Salome".

His wife Lesley and son Tomos will be glad to see him when he returns to Wales on December 21st - ready for Christmas and a well-earned rest.

Tangnefedd a phob hwyl Bryn.

By John Pritchard.

CAOBRIAN CIRCLE Singers

Wednesday November 6th,

Pearson Centre - 7 p.m.

Wednesday November 13th,

St. Michaels' Centre - 6 p.m.

Wednesday November 20th, Rehearsal - 8 p.m.

Wednesday November 27th, Rehearsal - 8 p.m.

Friday December 6th,

Willingdon Park Hospital - 7 p.m.

Saturday December 14th,



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

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

Saturday, December 7th - "Welcome Yule" Concert,

8:00 p.m. at the Abby Theatre, 2329 Crescent Way, Abbotsford.

Friday, December 13th & Saturday, December 14th - "Welcome Yule" Concert

8:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Wesley, Burrard & Nelson Sts, Vancouver.,

Tickets available from Sheena McDonald at 467-7012.

Tuesday, December 17th - "Welcome Yule" Concert

8:00 p.m. at the Surrey Arts Centre Theatre, 13750 - 88th Avenue, Surrey.

Call the Surrey Arts Centre for Tickets

Tachwedd 1996 November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 WELSH LESSONS ON MONDAY EVENINGS	5	6	7 FOLK DANCING ON THURSDAY EVENINGS	8	9 RED DRAGON OPEN ON SATURDAY
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 SATURDAY NIGHTS FROM 8.30 PM
17	18	19	20 W.A. MEET AT NOON. CAMB. SINGERS REHEARSAL 8 PM	21 WELSH NIGHT	22	23
24	25	26	27 CAMB. SINGERS REHEARSAL 8 PM	28	29	30 MULLED WINE EVENING (RED DRAGON)

Rhagfyr 1996 December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 WELSH LESSONS ON MONDAY EVENINGS	3	4 EXECUTIVE MEETING 7:30 PM	5 FOLK DANCING ON THURSDAY EVENINGS	6	7 CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE (RED DRAGON)
8	9	10	11 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM.	12	13	14
15 CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE & CHILDREN'S PARTY	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	JANUARY 1997 BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA!			