

Tachwedd i Rhagfyr
1998



November to December
1998

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



HAWARDEN CASTLE.

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CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17th Ave. VANCOUVER, BC V5V 1A6 Tel: (604) 876-2815

Y Gymanfa Ganu, Sunday Nov. 1st., 1998

The first Sunday in November came along again in 1998. As has been the tradition for many years, the Vancouver Welsh Society held its Fall Gymanfa Ganu on that day.

Over sixty souls — with their voices in gear —were in place in the upper hall promptly at 2pm. The sole out-of-towner present this time was Helen Steinle of Victoria, but there were quite a few visitors who had not attended a Gymanfa previously.

Our distinguished and most competent chairman was Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones, one of our past presidents.

This year, our very own Nerys Haqq was the organizer and conductor of the Gymanfa. With the help of Margaret Airey at the piano, and her own Cambrian Circle Singers, she got us all singing as lustily as we possibly could. Nerys managed to include most of the old favourites, as well as allocating time for personal requests. (Da iawn Nerys a diolch yn fawr).

We all enjoyed listening to the choral peices by the Circle Singers , and the fruits of practice under Nerys's baton were discernible.

A bountiful "te bach" (te mawr would be more appropriate!) followed the Gymanfa. Thanks to coordinator Gaynor Evans, her helping crew, and all the good friends who made culinary donations.

It was most unfortunate that the benediction lacked its usual vocal force ! It was a reflection on how much effort had been expended on singing the hymns, and especially on the last note of " Hen Wlad fy Nhadau". It put paid to the benedictorian !

Indeed a most enjoyable afternoon, and many thanks to all the participants and contributors, especially musical director, Nerys.

Submitted by John Pritchard



Church Blooper :

A song fest was hell at the Methodist church Wednesday.

WERE YOU THERE?

If you missed the Friday Open House and Dylan (Russell Roberts) at the Red Dragon followed by spirited singing around the piano and organ,

If you missed Ralph Maud, Walford Davies and Alan Jones examining "The Force that through the Green Fuse" on Saturday morning

If you missed a splendid Ploughman's Lunch mid-day Saturday thanks to Kathy, Tima and Pam (plus Jane's eggs)

If you missed Jordan's excellent meal and Walford's after-Dinner speech on Saturday evening,

If you missed Dr Hazel Davies and learning about the 'New Wales' on Sunday afternoon,

then you missed many events that probably will not be seen, again in Vancouver,

If you missed Professor Walford Davies' on Saturday afternoon with "Revisiting Fern Hill" then I am sorry because you missed a lifetime's opportunity to appreciate an analysis of one of Dylan Thomas' most famous poems. We learned hidden meanings that only years of academic study can reveal - word patterns that we miss even having read the poem a hundred times. The admission price of the whole weekend was covered, in my opinion, by this splendid lecture. I have recited Fern Hill many times but after this superlative, easily comprehended and amiable delivery of this favourite by Walford Davies, I will never read it the same again.

I cannot hope to condense into these two paragraphs the insight and knowledge that was imparted to us that Saturday afternoon. I shall not try. Suffice it to say that we were honoured to have such a world renowned scholar in our midst for our 3rd Annual Dylan Thomas Anniversary. (Thanks to Paul Lievesley, the Saturday afternoon has been captured on video and preserved for posterity(i.e. long after we have shuffled off these mortal coils). Unfortunately we can not offer it for sale but a showing could be arranged. Please call me if you are interested)

Submitted by Alan Jones. (Phone 437-0304)

Footnote. It should be recognized that even though The Dylan Thomas Circle covered the cost of Prof Walford Davies' travel to Vancouver, both Walford and his wife, Hazel, incurred very considerable extra expense in making themselves available to us for this unique October weekend. Words fail us in endeavouring to adequately express our gratitude to them for their commitment, spirit and enthusiasm in "spreading the word". Diolch, diolch o galon. - Neville Thomas.

W.A. REPORT

The W.A met as usual on the 3rd Wednesday of October. Our raffle tickets prepared by Gordon Thomas were distributed.

We wish to thank Gord for his efforts on our behalf. Now it is up to us to sell them, and, the rest of our membership to support us in our efforts.

We have donated our usual cheque to the Social Committee to help with the expenses of the Children's Xmas Party.

The tickets for the draw will be drawn at this event.

Please watch for crafts and preserves etc. for sale at our various Society events. We will be trying this method of fund-raising instead of an afternoon tea.

B. Thomas, Sect.



Mulled Wine Evening

Saturday, November 28th

Decorating of the tree, music, carolling, delicious finger foods,

Reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales"
and plenty of warmth and good cheer.

Do join us.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

Saturday, December 5th

In the Red Dragon

Catered by Jordan's

Music by

Raffle Draw and Door Prizes

Tickets on sale at the end of October.
Prices as yet to be decided, but don't look for a great change from last year - if any.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 13th

Games, fun, lots of treats - and a visit with Santa!



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM....

Lest We Forget

IN FLANDERS FIELD

*In Flanders fields where poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

John McCrae (1872-1918)



Dr Hazel Davies

Last week the Welsh Society welcomed Dr Hazel Davies of Aberystwyth to the Cambrian Hall. She accompanied her husband, Dr Walford Davies, to Vancouver. Walford Davies was here to address the Dylan Thomas Circle.

In her address to the Welsh Community she spoke of the changes that are occurring in Wales today. The emphasis is on a new modern Wales in all spheres. There is even talk of changing the Welsh Flag, the National Anthem !! Some of the changes are of benefit to all but others are of no value.

It was an interesting afternoon spent in the company of a woman who is well versed in the day to day cultural affairs of Wales. We all gained a great deal of information; information that is slow to filter to us here on the West Coast.

After the meeting we all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea that was prepared for us by Gaynor Owen, Gwen Tonack, Llinos Pritchard and Bernadette Howells.

Let us hope that this meeting will be the first of many such events in the Cambrian Hall.

Ann Roberts

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Our first performance under the baton of Guest Conductor John Trepp, a benefit concert for the Abbotsford Hospice Society on Saturday October 17, was very well received by an enthusiastic audience. The latter gave tangible evidence of their support by the purchase of almost \$700 worth of our tapes and CD's. Also much appreciated by those present were our performances at the 1998 "Canadians Remembered" exhibit in the Seaforth Armouries on Saturday November 7. November 14 will see us taking more than 80 choristers to Powell River for our first performance there, and also singing in Sechelt on the following afternoon. Our four Christmas concerts start at the Surrey Arts Centre on Tuesday Dec 8, while tickets for the traditionally very popular concerts in St. Andrew's Wesley Church, Vancouver on Dec 11 and 12 and the New Life Church in Abbotsford on Dec 19 are already selling well through Ticketmaster.

The fireside is the tulip bed of a winter day.

— Persian proverb

As long as war is regarded as wicked, it will always have its fascination. When it is looked on as vulgar, it will cease to be popular.

— Oscar Wilde

David Thompson : An Unsung Hero

History has not been kind or grateful to David Thompson, christened Dafydd ap Thomas, born of Welsh parents in London, England in 1770. This indefatigable explorer and cartographer has been glossed over by the history books and there is a paucity of information about this erudite Welsh-speaking gentleman with the wonderful tenor voice. Still, there is currently some awakening and rekindling of interest in our society, and there is hope that soon this splendid adventurer will gain his rightful recognition and place amongst the great explorers and pioneers of history.

Thompson lost his father when he was two years old. When he was seven years of age he entered a charity school, the Grey Coat School of Westminster Abbey, London where he was imbued with the principles of piety and virtue— a foundation for a sober and Christian life. Here he was educated in Latin, mathematics, geography and navigation— a suitable curriculum for entrance to the Royal Navy where most of the pupils of that school were destined.

But Fate intervened when the American Revolutionary War ended in 1783 : the Navy needed a lot fewer young navigators. Consequently, Thompson found himself apprenticed as a clerk to the Hudson Bay Company at the tender age of 14, based at Churchill Factory—modern-day Churchill, Manitoba, on Hudson's Bay.

A little over two years later, at 16-17 years of age he embarked on his first significant expedition as far as the Bow River, near Calgary. He encamped there in the winter of 1787, in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, with a Peigan band . He learnt their history, and acquired knowledge of the cultural and spiritual beliefs of the Cree and the Blackfoot. Thereafter, he had an abiding fascination with, and sympathy for, native life.

The following year Thompson broke his leg. It soon got infected, and he was incapacitated for over a year. Not a man to remain idle whilst recuperating, he studied astronomy, mathematics and map-making under the stewardship of the Hudson Bay's chief surveyor. New instruments were then available for accurate charting of longitude and latitude, and so Thompson acquired a powerful tool for his subsequent expeditions. It was in that year that he also began to keep a daily journal of his activities making observations on geography, animals, plants, landmarks and people.

At the age of 27, after 13years service with the Hudson Bay Company he quit his job and joined a rival company, the North West Fur Company. This company flourished as Thompson's explorations opened up Alberta, British Columbia and the American north-west to North West Company traders. Thompson became a partner in the company and became wealthy.

A series of misfortunes now began to dog Thompson. In 1821 the rival firms amalgamated and all of Thompson's work was turned over to the Hudson Bay's own map-maker in London, England, who promptly published them as his own! Thompson spent years fighting for recognition and restitution, but he only received £150 and no credit for his immense efforts.

.....over

In 1837, a world-wide depression wiped out Thompson's investments, and at the age of 67 he had to go back to work as a surveyor where he mapped the Muskoka regions of Ontario from Georgian Bay to the Ottawa River.

Next he tried to publish a memoir of his western adventures but his eyesight failed and he had to abandon the project. He fell on hard times and died in a state of penury.

What did this remarkable man accomplish? He almost single-handedly mapped over one-third of the North American continent ; explored the Athabasca and Columbia river systems ; found two passes over the Rocky Mountains ; discovered and mapped a navigable route from the Rockies to the Pacific Ocean ; explored the Missouri and Mississippi rivers; surveyed the Muskoka Lakes of Ontario and the Eastern townships of Quebec; and drew the border that separates the U.S. from Canada.

At last after two centuries of obscurity Canadians are reclaiming the man who put Canada on the map. A paperback edition of his Columbia River journals is now available, and his Narrative of Travels in Western North America is in preparation. A few weeks ago a Thompson statue was unveiled in Lac La Biche, Alberta, and in the same area a troop of Welsh soldiers will soon re-enact Thompson's arrival at the lake, and his discovery of the inland North-west Passage. Mathematicians have paid tribute to the uncanny accuracy of Thompson's surveying co-ordinates, and professors of English and journalists have expressed admiration for the power and eloquence of Thompson's writings. Lovers of the outdoors, such as hikers and canoeists, are impressed by his stamina, physical courage and survival instincts as they trace some of the routes discovered by Thompson.

When one considers the immensity of Thompson's work, done at a time when travel was at its most primitive, one has to feel awed and humbled by his magnificent and far-reaching accomplishments.

If ever a man deserved a posthumous Order of Canada then it should surely be this remarkable explorer.



Vancouver Welsh Society

Officers and Directors For 1998

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| President : | Jeff Owen (604) 946 - 4956 |
| V. Pres. : | Ann Roberts (604) 925 - 4662 |
| Secretary : | Ann Roberts |
| Treasurer : | Tecwyn Roberts (604) 464 - 2760 |
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| | Jane Byrne |
| | Victor Griffiths |
| | Ieuan Lampshire-Jones |
| | John Pritchard |

Governing a large country is like frying a small fish. You spoil it with too much poking.

— Lao Tzu

When governments accepts responsibility for people, then people no longer take responsibility for themselves.

— George Pataki

Colofn Ann Lewis

For those of you who lived in Wales in the 1950's and were readers of the Welsh national weekly newspaper Y Cymro you might have come across a column by Ann Lewis. Her name was Gwladys Williams, my aunt. She lived in a small village called Sarn Bach outside Abersoch where she had gone to live and teach straight from the Normal College in the early 1920's. There she lived on a small farm called Riffli until she died a few years ago at the age of 95.

Her column consisted of stories about country living and country recipes. Today I feel very like her in writing this small column and writing of two recipes. The first is one that was given to me by another aunt over 45 years ago and she had it from her mother Janet Davies of Penrhyndeudraeth.

Green Tomato Chutney

2lbs apples	2lbs sugar
1lb onions	4 lbs green tomatoes
1 lb raisins	
1 quart vinegar (5 cups)	
2 ozs salt (2 tablesp)	1 oz ground ginger (1 tablesp)
1 oz mustard (1 tablesp)	
1 small teasp. cayene (or to taste)	
1oz garlic(1 tablesp.)	

Peel and core apples, slice tomatoes and onions. Place in a large saucepan and simmer until soft. Then add the sugar and half the vinegar and all the raisins. Boil gently for 20 minutes. With the rest of the vinegar mix the salt, mustard, cayene, garlic and ginger. Add to the rest of the ingredients. Simmer gently for one and half hours. Place in jars immediately and cover. The second recipe was given to me by one of my students.

Shortbread Cookies

1 lb butter	Half cup corn starch
3 cups flour	1 cup icing sugar
1 teasp vanilla	

Cream the butter, then add other ingredients. Add vanilla. Whip, with an electric mixer, until mixture has the consistency of whipped potatoes. Drop with a teaspoon on a lightly greased pan. Bake approximately 12 minutes at 375 degrees. Dust with some icing sugar.

My Aunt often told me that she had picked my name and the name of my grandfather (her father) as her pen name for the articles in the Cymro.

Ann Lewis (Ann Roberts)

Before T.V. nobody knew what a headache looked like.

How can there be so much difference between a day off and an off day?

For some concert in this calendar display are
 notices for month-end, 4-6 weeks PRIOR to the event
 requested by month-end, or later changes.

November 1998
 Mis Tachwedd 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15 Llaner Welsh Men's Choir 2 p.m. Secheil Rogers's Cry Theatre	16	17	18 W.A. (noon) Meeting	19 8:00 p.m. Welsh Folk Dancing Thursdays Welsh Speaking Evening	20	21 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
22	23	24	25 Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	26	27	28 Mulled Wine and Carolling of finger food Red Dragon Open 7:30 p.m.

December 1998
 Mis Rhagfyr 1998

29	30	1	2 7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	3 8:00 p.m. Welsh Folk Dancing Thursdays	4 Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	5 Xmas Dinner Dance by ticket only Open 6:30 pm Dance 9:00 pm
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Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society
 Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.
 FSV 146 Telephone: (604) 876-2815

2:30 pm Queen's Park
 Cambrian Circle Singers
 4315 McBride, New West

6	7	8 Welsh Men's Choir 8:00 p.m. Xmas Concert Survey Arts Centre	9 7:30 pm ANNUAL General Meeting	10	11 Cambrian Circle Singout 7:00 pm Willingdon Park. Welsh Mens Chr 8:00 pm Concert St. Andrews Wesley	12 Welsh Men's Choir 8:00 pm Concert St. Andrews Wesley Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
13 11 a.m. Church Service and Tebach 2:00 p.m. Children's Xmas Party	14	15	16 W.A. (noon)	17 Orpheus Male Choir Musical Evening Fort Langley info: 513-4777	18 Dylan Thomas Circle	19 Welsh Men's Choir @McCallum Rd Abbotsford Red Dragon Closed till Jan 2

10 January 1999 Brydydd Newydd Dda!

Jan 2nd, 1999 Red Dragon open 8:30 pm