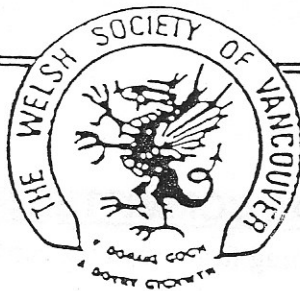


Tachwedd i Rhagfyr
2003

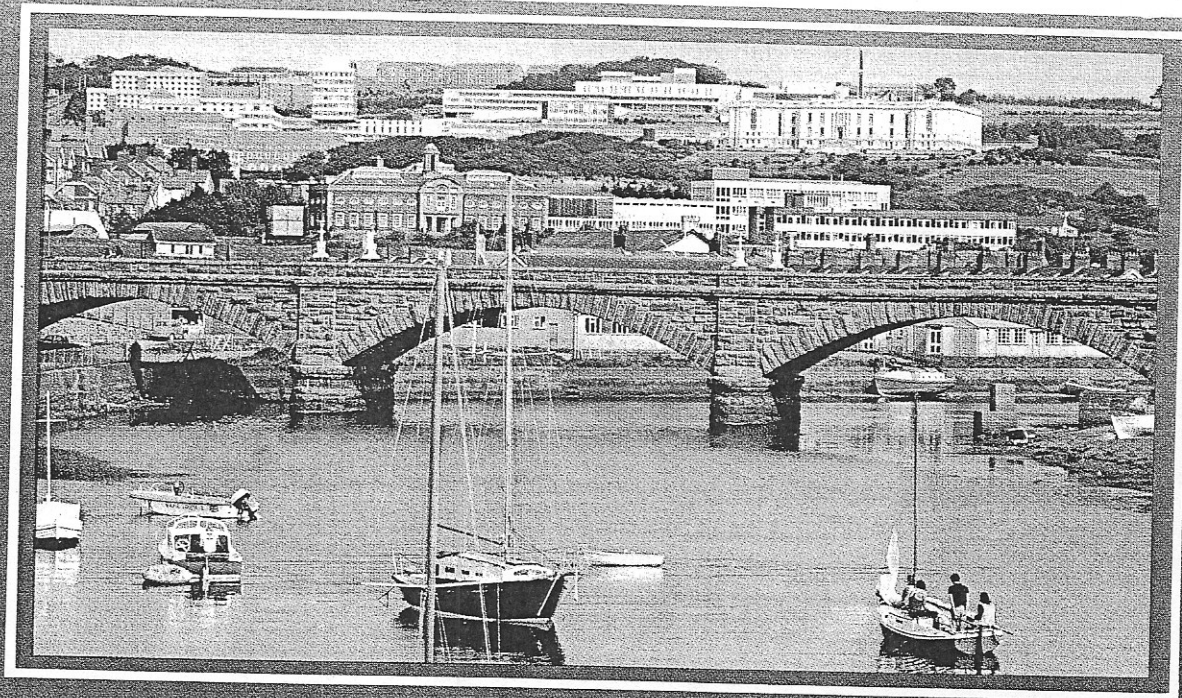


November to December
2003

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



 *Aberystwyth*

The University and Library from the Harbour

Photograph by A. Pickett Published by E.T.W. Dennis & Sons Ltd

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Christmas season is approaching faster than we care to admit. So please mark these important dates on your calendar.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE and PRIZE DRAW EVENING.

NOVEMBER 29th Please note this is one week earlier than usual.

Cocktails 6.30pm Dinner 7.30pm. ticket prices are \$30 for Members and Guests.

The meal will be catered by Jordan's International Foods

For tickets please call GAYNOR OWEN @ 946-4956. GWEN TONACK @ 738-3377.

Tickets numbers are very limited and are on sale now, they usually sell out very fast so please do not delay and call soon.

CHILDRENS CHISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 7TH is the date Santa will be coming . This is also one week earlier than usual.

The party will start at 2.00pm. Please call GAYNOR OWEN @ 946-4956. with your child's name and age no later than NOVEMBER 22nd The age limit is 12 and under. Please let Gaynor Owen know ahead of time if your child has any allergy problems.

ANNUAL MULLED WINE AND CAROL SINGING EVENING

DECEMBER 13th This will be the last regular Saturday that the Red Dragon is open and will be the occasion of our Annual Mulled Wine and Carol Singing Evening. The Hall will open at 7.30. Everyone is asked to bring a plate of Christmas goodies to the Red Dragon on the night and it should be a bit of fun. Who knows, maybe members of the Orpheus Choir will come down and help us sing a few carols.

HOSPITALITY

With only two weeks to go, we were informed that the Ystalyfera Choir would not only be giving a concert in the Hall but that they would also need to have lunch. Panic set in and Gaynor Owen was asked to organize the food. She thought about the menu for a day or two and then realized these would be hungry teenagers who would have just played hockey and rugby games. No junk food for them; it would be something better!

That weekend at the Red Dragon, the S.N.R. Army (Saturday Night Regulars) was mobilized and the whole event planned. Each S.N.R. member was given a task and a time in which to do it. The following Saturday (the day before the event) was the final preparation time; all of the S.N.R. members reported to Gaynor and any last minute adjustments were made. Earlier in the week Jane (Byrne) had found a very good deal on refreshments and they were dropped off at the Hall for cooling. Extra tables and chairs were brought down to the Red Dragon and everything was set for Sunday.

Sunday everyone turned up at 12.15 pm to prepare for a 2 pm arrival. John (Pritchard) took on the job of counting place settings but got a different total each time! Finally we settled on 98 places to accommodate 83 students, 10 staff and a few extra in case.

Everything was running like a well oiled machine when all of a sudden John shouted out "They're here!" – a good hour before we had expected them. Not to worry, it was decided that the choir would rehearse before the meal rather than after. At 2 pm a hungry group descended to the lower hall and devoured everything that was put before them, "like a swarm of locusts!" It was nice to see every student polite and well behaved at the table; it was much appreciated by the servers. They certainly enjoyed every mouthful of food and Gaynor knew she had made the right choice of menu when one student said, "I'm going to tell my Mam to make it like this."

No doubt their nourishment contributed to their subsequent stellar concert performance! Gaynor and her 'Army' of helpers all deserve medals for once again rising to the occasion on short notice on behalf of the Society. (Editor)

Orpheus in Lobster Land

It had been a long wait, 50 years in fact, since I saw the shores of Newfoundland but here we were touring the Maritimes – 80 noisy boisterous members of the Orpheus Choir. It was already eventful before we hit Toronto and almost an hour before they found a berth to unload.

Halifax, city of history, the explosion, Bedford Harbour where the wartime convoys brought food to the U.K. – very few bananas! A breathtaking walk up Citadel Hill: a breathtaking view from the fortress. The tux sparkling clean for the first concert at St Patrick's Catholic Church – they liked us!

On the bus to Fredericton through the New Brunswick countryside of flat open fields, houses with manicured lawns and fresh white paint contrasted with the colour in the trees. On the ferry to St John, the Bay of Fundy was calm but they didn't start singing (Calm is the sea??). At the concert at St John Parish Church, their organist joined in in the Pilgrim's Chorus – they sure liked that one!

On to Charlottetown over the new bridge, the Confederation Bridge (wow it's long!). The lobsters took over mealtimes but we survived. While the choir packed Kirk Church, the women spent the night with Anne (of Green Gables). At the afterglow we met Reverend Tuck of their Welsh Society. Of their 30 members good and true, 28 were T.T.

Off to Sydney, a stop at Pictou, the home of Hector, the sailing boat that brought 186 Scots to New Scotland. They built a home there and some of the kilts survive. Before the concert we went to Louisberg, capital of France in the New World. The rebuilt fort is very impressive. Our concert at St Andrews was highlighted by "Working Man", Rita McNeil's song of the mines. Our soloist, Terry (Newport) was given a standing ovation and a miner's hat (brand new).

Next morning, off to Rita's Tea Room. She had the day off but phoned us later in Halifax. We visited Baddock, the home of Sir Alexander Graham Bell. The concert at St Andrew's United was very good but the afterglow was interrupted by storm Juan. Rain, rain, no power, shower in the dark, shave in the dark! Air Canada didn't want us to leave Halifax or Toronto – surprise – we're back complete with colds and tarnished tux!

A highlight of the trip: walking through the heritage village of Kings Landing complete with gardens, fields of crops, saw mill, houses, barns, cattle, chickens, geese, pub and a church on a hilltop. Walking up to the sound of the boys singing *Llanfair* and one of the attendants running up to the church to join in. He was a young lad from North Wales and he stood in front of the choir at the concert that night to join in *Gwahoddiad*. A very fine tenor voice, yes, from North Wales!!

T.M.

Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

On Sunday, October 26th, the Cambrian Hall was fortunate indeed to host a concert by the students from the Welsh language comprehensive school, Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. Their visit was part of a tour of Vancouver and Vancouver Island which included four concerts as well as several rugby and grass hockey games against local school teams. The ensemble featured a choir of 66 voices accompanied by a 17 piece orchestral section, but the program itself also demonstrated a rich variety of acting, dancing and individual performing talents in selections which varied from nostalgic to educational to amusing. A veritable cornucopia of talent!

The opening number provided some inkling of what might follow. The audience (certainly myself) had not noticed that four clog dancers had formed on each of the outside isles so our attention was alerted by the sharp sound of clogs in unison hitting the floor. The eight dancers then moved to the front where they proceeded to demonstrate their skill. The dancing evolved into a rhythmic refrain which was suddenly picked up by the harp and it became apparent that this was the refrain from the folksong "Dacw'n nghariad i lawr yn y berllan". (That's my love there down in the orchard) This led naturally not only into the choir singing the folksong but also into the dancers acting out the song culminating in a dance between the two principals. Brilliant!

A number of bilingual dramatic presentations during the program sought to convey to the audience aspects of Welsh life and tradition. In one instance, a Canadian girl does a school project on Wales because her grandmother still lives there, so she phones her cousin in Wales and through their conversation the information provided becomes revealed to the audience, sometimes in song "Bore da means Good Morning! etc". Other skits involved discussions between parents and their children on the modern relevance of such institutions as the Noson Lawen, the longevity of Tom Jones, the emergence of more modern groups, and the survival of the Welsh language. This latter one started with Saunders Lewis' prediction of the demise of Welsh and also discussed the Welsh Not which Sir O.M. Edwards had suffered as a youth and which caused him, among other things, to establish Urdd Gobaith Cymru for Welsh youth to preserve the language. A bilingual presentation of part of *Under Milk Wood* was also performed.

Humourous skits dealt with a case of matriarchal dominance (presumably in South Wales) and a variation on a well known nursery rhyme recognized present reality. These served to lighten the mood between the more traditional fare of the superb choral singing of the established classics, an impressive solo from the harpist and a stirring contribution from the brass section. So much diverse ability is quite amazing and both the students and their mentors can be proud. It was uplifting to the spirit to experience the talents of these 83 fluently Welsh speaking students. They are a tribute to the vitality of the Welsh language and its traditions. They exemplify their school motto, "Dysgu Goreu, Dysgu Byw" (The best teaching is teaching how to live). As our President, Jane Byrne said in thanking them, we were very pleased to hear the Welsh language spoken and their whole performance had filled us with hiraeth for 'yr hen wlad'. We can't wait for their next trip out here.

D.L.W.

Calling All Walkers!

The Walking Group started on November 5th – please join us. Suggested walks are: Beaver Lake & Lost Lagoon, Jericho Beach & Sea Wall, Historic Sites Downtown, Queen Elizabeth Park, University Endowment Lands. The best day so far is Wednesday, but we can change the day as it suits us all. Call me! Mary Lewis 604-331-1573



The Puget Sound Welsh Association

PO Box 19344
Seattle, WA 98109

October 2, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVENT DATE: December 2, 2003

INFORMATION: Gerri Baker Parry (206) 524-0854 evening & days
email:gbakerparry@aol.com

A Welsh Christmas with Telyneg (te•lyn•eg, n. lyric)

Robin Huw Bowen ~ Welsh triple harp
Eiry Palfrey ~ Spoken word
Heather Jones ~ Vocals & guitar



Tuesday, December 2, 2003

7:30 pm

McEachern Auditorium

Museum Of History And Industry

2700 24th Ave E. Seattle, WA.

Tickets are \$15.00 at the door
(\$13.00 for Puget Sound Welsh Assoc. members)
At the door

Telyneg returns to the Pacific Northwest with their very successful and entertaining Christmas program combining Welsh harp, song and story, featuring "A Child's Christmas in Wales". The Welsh have been combining harp music and spoken word for hundreds of years. Robin Huw Bowen, joined by actress Eiry Palfrey and singer/guitarist Heather Jones offer a taste of Welsh culture and music. Telynegs performances show the listeners a love of both music and language from the perspective of a small rural Celtic country where the English are always present but where their own traditions and language have survived.

Sponsored by the Puget Sound Welsh Association

For more about Telyneg go to: <http://www.nancycarlinassociates.com/telyneg.shtml>

Nancy Carlin Associates PO Box 6499, Concord CA 94524 (925) 686-5800 www.nancycarlinassociates.com

November 2003

mis Tachwedd 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Cambrian Circle Singers	Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancers	Orpheus Choir Gateway Theatre Richmond	VWMC Choir Shaughnessy "U" Concert Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m. Xmas Dinner Dance Tickets Please - in advance
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Cambrian Circle Singers			

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society
Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.
V5V 1A6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815

December 2003

mis Rhagfyr 2003

1	2	3	4	5	6	
		7:30 pm Exec. Mtg		Van Dusen Gardens Cambrian Circle Singers	VWMC Xmas Concert - New West. Queen's A "U" Ch	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
2:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Party			ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	VWMC Choir Xmas Concert Shaughnessy U	Xmas Concert St. Andrews	
14	15	16	17	18	19	
11:00 a.m. Church & te bach		VWMC Xmas Concert Surrey Arts Ctr Tix - 501-5566			Abby Arts Ctr Abbotsford	
Orpheus @ West Van 2:30 p.m. St Stephen's Ang. 883 - 22nd Info: 604 - 515-5686					Dylan Thomas Circle Xmas Event	
						20
						Info:-604-878-1190 MULLER WINE
						Red Dragon - Open 8:30 VWMC
						Orpheus @ Langley 7:30 St Jos. RC, 20676 Fraser Hwy.