

# THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

*Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver*

*Cambrian News*

*Tachwedd*  
*2009*

*November*  
*2009*

*Society Newsletter - Fylchgrawn y Gymdeithas*



*Cambrian Hall 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gŷmansfa Janu*

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

## VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

### Officers:

#### **President:**

**John Morris**

#### **Vice-President:**

**Lynn Owens-Whalen**

#### **Secretary:**

**Gaynor Evans**

#### **Treasurer:**

**Alwyn Rogers**

#### **Membership Secretary:**

**Heather Davies**

#### **Immediate Past President:**

**Jane Byrne**

#### **Directors:**

**John Cann**

**Mary Lewis**

**Gethin Owen**

**Geraint (Nant) Roberts**

**Eifion Williams**

#### **Webmaster:**

**Alwyn Rogers**

**([www.welshsociety.com](http://www.welshsociety.com))**

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

**David Llewelyn Williams 737-0305**

**([williams@phas.ubc.ca](mailto:williams@phas.ubc.ca))**

### *The Cambrian News*

From The Editor,

This issue is almost entirely devoted to a highly successful series of society events for which we would especially wish to thank Gillian Rogers and the Social Events Committee. Memorable indeed! The coming weeks offer a further menu of seasonal events which should not be missed. However, especially important is our A.G.M. on December 14<sup>th</sup> where the Society's Officers for 2010 will be chosen and a motion to amend the By-Laws will be discussed.

David Llewelyn Williams

(Front Page photo by Uta Williams)

### **Letter from the President:**

*All Members,*

*Prior to our AGM on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2009, please examine the attached*

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

covering proposed changes to the **By Laws** regarding the category of **Associate Membership**

*(1) That Article B. 5.a) be amended to read:-*

**Associate Members shall be individuals who support the objectives, activities and the continuing existence of The Welsh Society of Vancouver but do not wish to regularly participate in the affairs of the Society.**

*Presently Article B.5a reads:-*

*Associate Members shall be members of recognised Divisions of the Society who do not wish to regularly participate in the affairs of the Society*

*(2) That Article B.5c of the By Laws be deleted*

*Presently Article B.5c reads:-*

*The number of Associate Members shall not exceed the number of Voting members*

This Notice of Motion was filed for consideration by Neville Thomas as a possible means of raising the membership numbers.

*Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.*

*Sincerely,*

*John Morris, President*

### Fundraiser

Our own **Calendars** and **Cookbooks** for sale. They will be a great Christmas gift for your family and friends.

**Welsh Society Calendars** are now available at \$11 each and this includes a mailing envelope. Buy them at our upcoming events and reserve your copies by contacting Pat or Gillian. Pat Morris 604 536-9556 or email to [PatriciaMorris2186@hotmail.com](mailto:PatriciaMorris2186@hotmail.com) Gillian Rogers at 604 742-1378 or email to [Gillian.Rogers@shaw.ca](mailto:Gillian.Rogers@shaw.ca)

**Cambrian Cooks:** favourite recipes of Welsh Society members in a new cookbook - now available at \$10 a copy. See a traditional recipe below. The books will be available at society events.

**BUTTERED LEEKS AND CABBAGE  
MENYN CENHINEN A FRESYCHEN**  
1 large green cabbage  
3 tbsp melted butter  
6 leeks cut in half and cleaned  
1 tsp salt  
6 slices of bacon diced  
1 1/2 cup of water

Remove outer leaves of cabbage, cut into wedges, then remove core. Slice thinly. Slice the leeks lengthways into quarters, then in 1/2 inch strips. Combine cabbage leeks and bacon with butter salt and water. Cook over medium heat for 25 to 30 minutes until tender. Drain and serve with a beef or lamb pie.

### *Forthcoming Events*

**Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10.30 am**

Work Party at the Cambrian Hall

**Wed, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 11.30 am**

**Lunch at the Cambrian Hall**

A hot lunch will be served this month. Join us in decorating the Hall ready for the Christmas festivities. Learn new techniques in Christmas crafts. Start the season with some music and hwy!

**Sat. December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 for 8 pm  
Mulled Wine (or Cranberry Punch)  
and Carol Evening.**

Richard Williams will sing some songs accompanied by Barry Yamanouchi.

There will also be readings from *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. If you would like to contribute by sharing your memories of Christmas in Vancouver, please contact a member of the Social Committee or Gillian at 604-742-1378 (A donation of \$10 per person would be appreciated to defray costs.)

**Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 am  
Bilingual Carol Service & Te Bach**

Followed at 2.00 pm by

**Children's Christmas Party**

Children up to the age of twelve will visit with Santa and receive a gift.

Anyone over twelve is welcome to join in the festivities and help with crafts and games. Christmas snacks will be provided. Please phone Gaynor Evans at 604 271-3134 giving the child's name & age ASAP. Cut-off date is Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Dinner** (catered by Jordan's)

The Hall will open at 6.00 pm and the Dinner will be served at 7.00 pm.

Menu: Turkey and Ham Dinner with all the trimmings followed by traditional Christmas deserts. Please reserve early with Gaynor Evans at 604-271-3134

**Pantomime, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3.00 pm!**

We plan to attend the pantomime, Robin Hood, produced by Ellie King at the Surrey Arts Centre. We hope to get a reduced group rate of \$25.50 per adult, \$19.50 (senior/student) and \$15.50 (children under 12). Please contact Pat Morris (604-536-9556) ASAP if you would like to join us. After the show we plan supper at a Fish & Chip restaurant.

### A Social Evening at the Red Dragon

A very pleasant evening was arranged by the Social Committee on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed good conversation and a generous selection of appetizers and desserts was provided by the membership. The promised mystery competition turned out to be pumpkin carving and four teams entered the fray, with Rob Fox and his team declared the winners. We then settled down to an evening of songs led by Sharon McIntee Burrill, who had provided us all with a songbook of favourites. Suitably mellow and well prepared for Halloween, we thoroughly enjoyed the event. Our thanks to the Social Committee and all those who volunteered their services.



Sharon & Bea

Thanks to Neville Thomas for the photos  
There are more photos on the website.

D.L.I.W.

### 2010 North American Festival of Wales in Portland, September 2-3-4-5

Betty Pierce (Bryn Seion Welsh Church in Oregon) attended our celebrations and encouraged us to attend their Festival. The featured choir is Côr Godre'r Aran based in the village of Llanuwchllyn at the western end of Bala Lake. The choir opened the 2009 National Eisteddfod. The Aran Mountains form a majestic backdrop to the scenic view looking west from the rural market town of Bala. "It is an area which has retained its Welsh identity. It is steeped in history and has a long and proud poetic, literary, musical and cultural heritage. The choir membership represents a spectrum of rural occupations and is unique in that all its members are natural Welsh speakers." Over the years, the choir has won principal awards at the National Eisteddfod and four championships at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. I hope both our society and ourselves will lend support to Portland's Festival.

### Dylan Thomas Circle Christmas Celebration in the Cambrian Hall

On Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Dylan Thomas Circle presents "Christmas in Wales" arranged and performed by Russell Roberts, Colleen Winton and Brian Tate, doors open at 6.45 pm. and the program commences at 7.30 pm. Russell Roberts is well known to our membership, Colleen Winton is an actress with an extensive list of stage, movie and television credits, Brian Tate is a versatile musician with a stellar reputation as an award-winning composer, choral music director and educator. Tickets at \$20 (19 yrs+) from 604-294-4332([nkthomas@shaw.ca](mailto:nkthomas@shaw.ca)) or 604-921-7699([donalddthomas@telus.net](mailto:donalddthomas@telus.net))

## Cambrian Hall 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

### Y Noson Lawen

Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, our weekend celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the building of the Cambrian Hall, started with a traditional *Noson Lawen*, a fun filled evening of poetry and music. A most diverse array of talents was put on display, introduced by our jovial M.C., Neville Thomas.

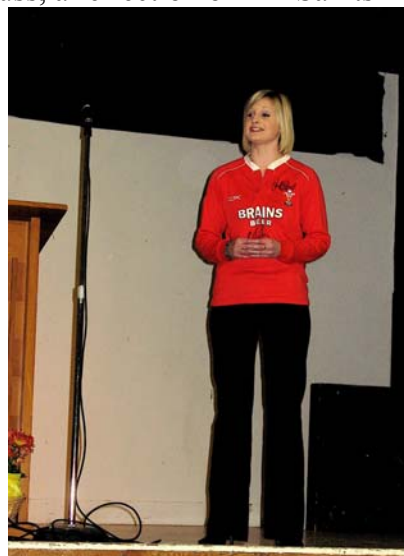
The evening commenced with a rendition of an old favourite, *Myfanwy* by John Owen from Boise, backed by The Gospel Boys, a subgroup of the VWMC formed to sing spirituals.



This was followed by the Cambrian Circle Singers under the direction of Nerys Haqq accompanied by Lucy Sorenson who presented four songs in English and in Welsh including such favourites as *Ar Lan y Mor*.

Russell Roberts lent his melodious speaking voice to a reading of a short story by Dylan Thomas and the Gospel Boys reappeared to sing three spirituals. John Pritchard told us of the discovery of America by Prince Madog in 1170, well before Columbus. He read the well known poem in Welsh by Ceiriog on Madog's departure with a fleet of 13 small boats from Rhos-on-Sea and supplied his own English translation.

To close the first half of the program, our visiting soprano soloist from Wales, Joy Cornock sang *The Rose* by Amanda McBroom and *Alle Seelen* by Richard Strauss, a reflection on All Saints Day.



After a pause for refreshments, a rousing start to the second half of the program was provided by a selection of well known Welsh songs by Eifion's *Cambrian Chorus*; members from both the VWMC and Orpheus Choirs directed and accompanied by Eifion Thomas. Here is their finale together with Joy.



John Cann discovered a Welsh version of *Jabberwocky*, the poem by Lewis Carroll from *Alice through the Looking Glass*. It is called *Siaberwoci* by Selyf Roberts. Peter Clarke recited the English version and John followed with the Welsh version which was 'full of sound and fury'! A most original contribution!

Our own Sharon McIntee Birrell then took us back to the 40's and 50's with a medley of classic melodies which filled us with memories. She was accompanied by Ruben Federizon who accompanied all our other solo performers during the evening. David Llewelyn Williams followed with a recitation of *Aberdaron* by Cynon both in the original Welsh and in his own English translation. Since the last two lines were repeated in each verse, the audience was asked to join in as a chorus as he presented the verses, alternating between Welsh and English. This they did with enthusiasm.

As the evening drew to a close, our visiting tenor, Eifion Thomas, sang the classic *Come back to Sorrento* and followed this up with a rousing rendition of *Unwaith eto 'Nghymru Annwyl*, encouraging the audience to join in the chorus. This set the mood for the 'surprise' appearance of *The Cambrian Cuties* dressed as Rugby players whose song and dance number was a great hit with the audience.



They concluded their act with the singing of two Rugby songs, *Sosban Fach* and *Hymns and Arias*, with everyone joining in the choruses. The pianist, who was in on the surprise, also appeared in costume! Altogether a most spirited and amusing conclusion to the program! Indeed this was probably the best and most varied Noson Lawen we have experienced for some time.



In closing, President John Morris thanked the participants and especially the Social Committee and Anniversary Weekend Organizers: Gillian Rogers (Chair), Jane Byrne, Heather Davies, Gaynor Evans, Lynne Fox, Mary Lewis, Pat Morris, Lynne Shepard and Lynn Owens-Whalen. Art Kelm in the Red Dragon and Eifion Williams upstairs kept the liquid refreshment flowing. I am grateful to Neville Thomas for the photo of Eifion in costume; the others were taken by your editor!

D.L.I.W.

### The Anniversary Dinner

Our Anniversary Dinner celebrated both the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cambrian Hall and also the 102<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of our Society. After a welcome by John Morris, we sang *O Canada*.



John Pritchard read a grace in Welsh and Gwilym Evans read the English version before we sat down to enjoy yet another splendid repast prepared by Jordans.



Irene & Gwilym Evans with Anne Bosch the granddaughter of Thomas Edwards, one of the founders of the Cambrian Hall

After the meal we were entertained first by Joy Cornock, who sang *Waltz of my Heart* by Ivor Novello, *Mae Hiraeth yn y Mor*, a Welsh classic, and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love changes Everything*.



Eifion Thomas then took to the stage with a rendition of a Welsh classic, *Yr Hen Gerddor*, followed by the aria *Una furtiva lagrima* from Donizetti's opera *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Then to close the evenings entertainment, Eifion and Joy combined in the classic Welsh duet from my childhood: *Hywel a Blodwen*. For all these solos and the duet, the accompanist throughout was Ruben Frederizon. The audience was most appreciative and President John Morris thanked both the

soloists and Ruben the accompanist for providing such a memorable occasion



He also thanked Jordans whose staff came on stage to receive the audience's acknowledgement. After the singing of *Hen Wlad fy 'Nhadau*, we moved to the Red Dragon where Eifion conducted an *Ysgol Gân* to prepare us for tomorrow's Gymanfa.



Your Editor, Ruben, Janet Cornock, Joy, Eifion and Uta Williams.  
(All photos thanks to Uta)

D.L.I.W.

### Sunday Events

Our Sunday program began with a well attended Church Service in the Lower Hall, presided over by Capt. Ieuan Lampshire Jones on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day. Readings in Welsh were given by Ieuan, Elizabeth Murray and David Llewelyn Williams and in English by Glyn Shepard, Lynne Shepard, and Lynn Owens-Whalen. Nerys Haqq sang a very appropriate solo accompanied by Ray Batten, who was also the accompanist for all the hymns. John Cann gave a thought provoking Sgwrs entitled “Ffydd ein Tadau”, “Faith of our Fathers” and Ieuan pronounced the closing benediction. The service was followed by a light lunch which allowed

us to meet friends and socialize before the afternoon session. I was personally pleased to meet Theophilus Jones from Abbotsford again who always attends these Sunday events.

The Gymanfa started in the main Hall at 2pm. After the singing of *O Canada*, our President, John Morris, welcomed all the participants and introduced Eifion Thomas, our conductor, from Llanelli, our soloist, Joy Cornock, from Abergwaun and our accompanist, Barry Yamanouchi from the Vancouver Orpheus Choir. The program started with a reading of the singularly appropriate 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm by David Llewelyn Williams in Welsh and John Cann in English. Then Eifion Thomas took the stage and the Gymanfa started in earnest, with enthusiasm and intensity. Eifion prefaced each hymn with some observations on the hymnist or the composer and their history. In some cases the hymns had originated in North America and had comparatively recently been incorporated into the Methodist hymn books in Wales. Such observations give the hymns more meaning and more insight into the social history of Wales. His knowledge and enthusiasm is contagious and for the next three hours the Cambrian Hall reverberated to the sound of traditional Welsh hymns under his skillful baton.





He was most ably assisted by Barry Yamanouchi, who had played so well at their first Gymanfa together in 2007. During the breaks between the hymns we were serenaded by Joy Cornock who first sang a Welsh classic, *Y Deryn Pur*, in which a bird is requested to carry a love message and later the patriotic song, *Cymru Fach*, (Beloved Wales).



In his closing remarks, John Morris thanked all who had participated and particularly recognized Joy's mother Janet who had traveled out with Joy.



After a chorus of *God be with you till we meet again* we stood to sing *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* and for the Benediction by John Pritchard, bringing this outstanding Gymanfa to a close. A fitting conclusion to the celebrations marking the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Cambrian Hall.

D.L.I.W.

The Te Bach downstairs was quite a feast and went on for quite some time



(photos by Uta Williams)