

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

**Hydref
2006**

**October
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Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Society Newsletter – Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



St. Michael's Church Caerwys Flintshire

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17th Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

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VANCOUVER

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This month's front cover was inspired by learning of a visit to Caerwys, Flintshire, by the Wynne Family Genealogical Club, a group of Americans who traveled to follow in the footsteps of their ancestors but then I found out much more about Caerwys! Members of the Wynne Genealogy Club, who were invited by the Caerwys mayor, Phillip Parry, who arranged the trip, visited relatives and saw where their forefathers lived. They were all seventh and eighth generation descendants of Caerwys surgeon Thomas Wynne, who sailed to America in 1652 on board *The Welcome* with William Penn, Pennsylvania's founder. He became a prominent local figure in America, eventually sitting as a judge. Philadelphia's original street plan was apparently designed on the street pattern of Caerwys. Welsh names are in abundance, together with the properties built in Philadelphia that resembled buildings in the Caerwys area. Some of those buildings are still standing today, including Thomas Wynne's ancestral homes in Philadelphia, and the family home called Bron Fadog, in Caerwys.

David Llewelyn Williams

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 4 @ 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting in the Cambrian Hall.

Sunday, October 8 @ 11.00 am
Church Service followed by Te Bach

Saturday, October 14 @ 6 for 7 pm
Anniversary Dinner in the Cambrian Hall

Anniversary Dinner

Saturday October 14th
Celebrating 77 years at the
Cambrian Hall
1929 - 2006

MENU

(Catering by Jordan's)
Assorted Bun Basket with Dairy
Butter
Garden Salad
Greek Salad
Hot Mixed Vegetables
Potatoes au Gratin
BBQ Chicken Pieces
Meatballs in Burgundy Mushroom
Sauce
Roast Beef
Anniversary Cake
Assorted Tarts
Fresh Fruit Tray
Tea and Coffee

The Red Dragon will be
open at 6pm for cocktails.

Dinner at 7pm prompt.

Tickets at \$27.00 each.

*Please call Gaynor Evans at 604-
271-3134 ASAP to reserve tickets.*

**"Land Beyond Time: Wales a Britain Less
Travelled"**

John Guy discussed this fascinating article in the National Geographic TRAVELLER May/June issue in the September *Staccati*. The ten page article was inspired by the work of the celebrated Welsh writer, Jan Morris and begins in the Pen-y-Gwryd Hotel where Edmund Hillary's team trained for Everest. Morris was the only journalist with the expedition. Magnificent photographs of Wales by Jim Richardson. Worth reading!

The Welsh Weekend

November 3 to 5

Once again we will be celebrating our annual Welsh Weekend this November. More details will be forthcoming but the main events will follow our traditional pattern. Saturday and Sunday events at the Cambrian Hall. **Do plan to attend!**

Friday Nov 3 at 7.30 p.m.

VWMC Fall Concert

Kay Meek Centre

1700 Mathers Ave.

West Vancouver

Saturday Nov 4 at 8.00 p.m.

Noson Lawen

Sunday Nov 5 at 11.00 a.m.

Bilingual Church Service

Followed by Te Bach

Sunday Nov 5 at 2.00 p.m.

Gymanfa Ganu

Conducted by Jonathan Quick

This Sporting Life

John Pritchard celebrating his fourth Hole-in-One this summer at Richmond.



Cambrian Circle Singers

Fall 2006 will be another full season for the Singers. The Fall is always a challenge with having to have two completely different programmes - Regular and Christmas. With most members having been with the choir for a number of years now it is not as big a challenge as in some past years. We do however like to add two or three new numbers to our Christmas repertoire to go with the recycling of the rest of our music.

Our first singout will be at Chalmer's Lodge on Tuesday, October 3rd followed by Augustine House in Ladner on Friday the 20th. Friday, November 10th. finds us in White Rock at Crescent Gardens.

On Saturday, November 18th we will be part of a fundraising concert.

"The BC Regiment Irish Pipes and Drums in collaboration with St. David's of Wales Anglican Church, Vancouver, is holding a fundraising concert for a local community group, The Aboriginal Mother's Centre. All proceeds will go to the centre to help them through the Christmas period. The centre provides food, shelter and clothing for single aboriginal mothers and abused women. The "Night of the Celts" will take place on November 18, 2006 at 7PM and we are looking forward to featuring piping, vocal soloists, The Cambrian Singers, Aboriginal performers and Irish dancers. St. David's is located at 2475 Franklin Street in Vancouver, one block North and one block East of Hastings and Nanaimo."

I have not been told ticket prices.

Thursday, November 23 we will start our Christmas music at Blenheim Lodge

followed by a performance at Sunnyside Manor in White Rock the following night. On Friday, December 1st. we will be performing at St. Edward's Anglican Church in Richmond at 7:00 p.m., tickets \$ 5.00 .

At the moment, we finish our Christmas season on December 8th with the opening of Van Duesen Garden's Christmas Light Show at 7:30 p.m.

Nerys Haqq

CAMBRIAN SINGERS FALL 2006

Sept 8/15/22/29 Fri Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Oct 3, Tues Chalmers Lodge 7:30 p.m.
(!450 W. 12th. Ave. Van.)

Oct 13 Friday Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Oct 20, Fri Augustine House 7:30 p.m.
(3820 Arthur Drive, Ladner)

Oct 27, Friday Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Nov 3, Friday Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Nov 10, Fri Crescent Gardens 7:30 p.m.
(1222 King George Hwy White Rock)

Nov 18, Sat St. David's Church 7:00 p.m.
(2475 Franklin St., Van)

Nov 23 Thu. Blenheim Lodge 7:00 p.m.
(3163 Blenheim St. @ 16th).

Nov 24 Fri Sunnyside Manor 7:00 p.m.
(15340 17th. Ave. White Rock)

Dec 1, Fri St Edward's Anglican Church
Bird Rd. & St Edw. Richmond 7.00 p.m

Dec 8, Fri Van Duesen Grdns 7:30 p.m.

The Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir

Normally the Orpheus has the summer off. This year however was different for the Gwent and Cwmbach Choirs from Wales complete with supporters were visiting the West Coast. We held joint concerts with them and naturally a bit of nostalgia crept in while chatting here and there. My memories went back to the town of Neath, some negative and some positive. They have a beautiful garden in the town centre, the market place is buzzing, the faggots and peas are delicious and they had two of the best rugby forwards of that period. On the other side, the train from Paddington arrived a little after the last bus left for the valley. Back to the concerts, which were a great success, both being near sellouts. Towards the end of the second concert we were waiting to go on stage. There was a hush and on the stage came this beautiful young lady, bright red dress, full figure soprano and the most wonderful rendering of "Cymru Fach". A wonderful voice, the entire audience came to their feet – a voice for the future and, by the way, Nicola Hughes comes from Neath and is sweet 19. For a non-partisan view, below is a copy of one of the e-mails that the choir received.

(thanks to Milton Morgan for this article)



Figure 1 The Cwmbach Choir and Nicola Hughes

What a fabulous evening that was, everyone was raving about it and we heard nothing but positive feedback from all who attended. You all did such a good job of organizing the event at such short notice, and we were proud and honoured to be part of the evening.

We all especially liked your rendition of the do wap number, unexpected and fun! Looking forward, we'd really like to partner with the Orpheus Choir on future events and would like to discuss your involvement in our Parade of Trees event on Grouse Mountain in early December. Perhaps we could set up a meeting over the coming few weeks?

We are also in the process of producing our fall newsletter and would like to include a short write up and picture, do you have a picture of the Choir(s) that you could forward to me? I'm looking forward to speaking with you all soon. Thanks for your support and commitment to SOS BC.

Regards, Cary

Cary Gaymond (Ms)

Director of Development (SOS Children's Village BC)



“The Home of the Eisteddfod”

The town of Caerwys in Flintshire was once one of the strongholds of the Welsh people during the Roman invasion. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as a small market town. It is in fact one of the smallest towns in Wales, having been granted a Royal charter by King Edward I in 1290. It may be that the charter was granted as a concession to Welsh traders, confident that the more belligerent Welsh nobles would be kept firmly in check by the military establishments at Flint and Rhuddlan. In 1990 Princess Margaret represented the Queen at the festivities when Caerwys celebrated its 700th anniversary.

King Henry VIII declared Caerwys to be the venue for Craftsmen of Poetry and Music and in 1523 an ‘Eisteddfod’ was held to ‘codify the bardic laws’ Henry wanted to discourage the traveling poets from spreading anti English sentiments and hoped that as they travelled to Caerwys they would be treated as vagabonds by unfriendly local communities. In the event, no-one who finally attended was judged worthy of the expected standard.

However, his daughter, Elizabeth I declared Caerwys to be ‘the home of the Eisteddfod’ and in 1567 gave permission for a competitive bardic assembly. She issued a proclamation requiring anyone claiming to be a poet or a musician to come and be judged. Once they had proved their abilities they were awarded licences which allowed them to travel between the houses of the gentry in England and Wales and to perform, without being confused with common tramps or vagabonds. Fifty five were awarded licences. The festival is

commemorated in a window in St. Michael’s Church. In 1967 the 400th anniversary of that Eisteddfod was celebrated, Queen Elizabeth II was represented by Princess Margaret and members of the Bardic Circle processed through the town; the only occasion this has happened outside the National Eisteddfod itself.

In September 1886, The Royal Welsh Eisteddfod of Wales, as it was then known, was held in Caerwys and I quote from the Denbighshire Free Press: “The rules of the competition on the Welsh triple-stringed harp of Wales have been specially arranged by Lady Llanofor (Gwynnyn Gwent), who is intensely interested in these contests, and they set forth that no one would be qualified to compete who had been a player on the pedal harp the object being to restore to its proper position the national instrument of the principality, and to encourage the cultivation of the pure and simple style in which ancient Welsh music ought to be played.” “As the president took his seat on the platform an appropriate and popular air was rendered with great effect by the harpists, nine in number, led by Gruffydd, (blind) harpist to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.”

To read more of the contributions that this small town has made to the history of Wales, not to mention Philadelphia, visit the Town Council website at www.caerwys.com

Welshest place in Wales - and proud of it (Western Mail Sept 11)

A TINY market town has been named the "Welshest place in Wales" by new research looking at the origins of

residents' names. Names of 42 million voters across the UK have been analysed to determine their ethnic origins by first names and surnames. And Llangefni was revealed to be the place where there are "most Welsh" people living. People living in Llangefni said they were proud to be given the new tag. The town's previous claim to fame was that one of Wales' most renowned artists, Sir Kyffin Williams, who died just over a week ago, was born there.

Fflur Mai Hughes, Plaid Cymru Anglesey County Councillor for Cefni ward, which covers Llangefni, said she was delighted with the town's Welshness award. She said, "The first thing you notice in the town is the Welsh language being spoken in the streets. The culture and language have been kept here. Families have stayed here." Although young people tended to leave to go away and study, she said many returned for the community, the beautiful location and their roots.

Llangefni is a market town with a population of 5,000. It stands in the centre of Anglesey beside the River Cefni five miles from the sea. The town can trace its roots back to when it was a village in the forest. By 1626 it was a bustling town with its own postmaster. It was also a stop-off point for people on their way to and from Dublin. By the 18th century it had the largest livestock market on the island and in 1899 it became the administrative centre of Anglesey. Today there is a thriving museum and art gallery, Oriel Ynys Mon.

"A wonderful little corner of Wales in Islington" (extract from Mark Blunden Islington Tribune)

It was one of the biggest Welsh get-togethers this side of Offa's Dyke. The gourmets came from Carmarthen, they came from Bridgend and they came from just up the road. They were joined by a host of MPs, Plaid Cymru of course, for the official opening of Lloyd's Dairy in Amwell Street. Six MPs, the Welsh Affairs officer from the US embassy, the Newport-born Mayor of Islington, and the chairman of the London Welsh Trust all came along to sample Welsh cheese, meats, wine and even whisky.

The 19th century Welsh Georgian-fronted dairy is a listed building and the new owners, John Matthews and David Myers have restored the old building complete with signs, butter hands, bull's horns and wooden shelves. Mr. Matthews has fond memories of the place since he worked there as a boy. It was closed for many years until they rescued it from being turned into flats.

Isabel Monnington, who heads Lloyd's Dairy Preservation Group, said; "Having a new outlet for Welsh cheeses is very important because it means the farmers will be getting their margins. The feedback we had was tremendous. The smoked meats from the Black Mountain Smokerie were especially popular."

Plaid Cymru MP Elfyn Llwyd called the new shop "a wonderful little corner of Wales in London."

(thanks to Heather Davies for the article)