

October to November  
September to October  
1994



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Hydref i Tachwedd  
1994

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

*Cambrian News*

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



THE WYNNSTAY ARMS, RUTHIN, CLWYD



## In Memory Of...

The following letter is for the benefit of those who remember the late Shirley Louie.

To: Jack Smith,

Treasurer of The Welsh Society of Vancouver.

Enclosed please find a donation to "The Piano Restoration Fund" in memory of SHIRLEY LOUIE who died on April 18th, 1994.

Where do all our memories go when we die? This donation is to ensure that we who knew her will remember Shirley and her brief but memorable time with us.

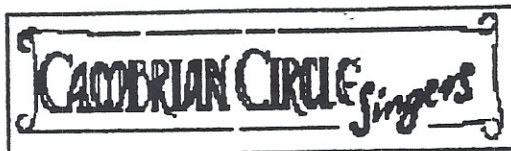
Shirley, born in Ashcroft, B. C. of Chinese origin, was a member of the Society for a short while in the late '70's. At that time she visited Wales and proudly presented her Vancouver Welsh Society membership card wherever she went. It held her in good standing!

She will be fondly remembered for:

#1 Supplying the food for the infamous Medieval Dinner that was held at Cambrian Hall. She was the Assistant Director of the U.B.C. Food Services Department.

#2 Being an accomplished pianist who played the grand piano for many a social singalong whilst she was a member.

Loving memories, Eirlys Ann.



Rehearsals are as follows:

October: Friday 7th; Wednesday 19th.

November: Friday 11th; Wednesday 16th.

Singouts will be given on:

Friday, October 14th at U.B.C. Extended Care Unit, 2211 Westbrook Mall at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 26th at Richmond Extended Care Unit, Minoru Boulevard at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 5th at Queen's Park Hospital, New Westminster at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 20th at Kiwani's Lodge, West Vancouver at 2:15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30th at Chalmer's Lodge, Vancouver at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7th at Century House, New Westminster, at 7:00 p.m.

If you wish to become a member of the Cambrian Circle Singers, please call Mrs. Nerys Haqq at 278-8978.

## Anniversary Dinner



Last October 1st, if you didn't attend the Anniversary Dinner, you missed out on a really pleasant evening.

All the hard work that goes on behind the scenes was evident. The meal

served up by Jordan's was delicious and the entertainment was wonderful.

Perhaps not as many tickets were sold as would have been liked, but those who came felt that it was time well spent that makes the effort worthwhile.

Kudos go to all those who participated in any way to make the evening a memorable one.



## Noson Lawen/Gymanfa Ganu Weekend

ALL HAIL, TALENTED MEMBERS OF THE WELSH SOCIETY!

We are looking for some creative and diverse acts to come out of the closet and take part in the NOSON LAWEN on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, (Guy Fawkes Night for citizens of the U.K.!)

For this particularly illustrious Welsh night of fun and good humour, our emcee will be that loveable and most entertaining rogue, Don Murray.

As always, the Noson Lawen will be in the Red Dragon Pub, with servings of delicious home made Cawl Cennin - Leek Soup from one of our kitchen wizards, Rose Murphy.

So don't sit at home and think of what might have been! Come on down to the Red Dragon and share your sense of hwyl/fun with us.

### Gymanfa Ganu

Sunday church service will be held at 11:00 a.m., preceding the afternoon's Gymanfa Ganu, which will begin around 2:00 p.m.

For the Gymanfa:

Chairman .....Ellis Griffiths.  
Guest conductor .....Tim Dyck.  
Piano accompanist ....Enid Lewis.  
Soloist .....David Tuck.  
Prayer reading .....Elizabeth Murray.

A light refreshment is served after both the church service and Gymanfa and we always appreciate any edible delights donated to the luncheon table by the talented cooks amongst our members. Diolch yn fawr.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to tell you that we shall have visitors from south of the border for the Noson Lawen/Gymanfa Ganu weekend. They are the Seattle Mixed Choir and some members from the Puget Sound Welsh Association.

There will be approximately 15 visitors and they request - and would be grateful - for billets for one night only.

Contact Jeff and Gaynor Owen at 946-4956 if you have a bed or two you can spare. Thanks/diolch.



## Hallowe'en Fun Night

Saturday, October 29th

at the Red Dragon Pub

with Chepstow races, games, ducking for apples

Chili and Buns served

DRESSING UP (OR DOWN!) IS OPTIONAL

N.B.: If our members have any other suggestions for games we could effectively use that night, please contact a Social Committee member.

Jeff and Gaynor Owen - 946-4956.  
Tony and Gwen Tonack - 738-3377.  
Robert and Lynne Fox - 944-6940.

LIKE LAST YEAR'S, IT PROMISES TO BE GREAT FUN!





## Women's Auxiliary Report

The first W.A. meeting of the fall season took the form of a luncheon party at the home of Bertha Miller. She had prepared a delicious meal and weather was kind to us. We had a lovely afternoon; thank you Bertha.

Our member Tegwen Shirlaw presented a ceramic vase, made and decorated by herself, which was raffled at the Anniversary Dinner. The lucky winner was Nita Adams.

Regrettably, we forgot to convey our thanks in print last month, to the Richmond Ensemble for entertaining us so beautifully at our June meeting. Two members of the Ensemble also belong to the W.A. They are Joan Wilkinson and Veronica Gilder. Please accept our apologies and our thanks ladies.

Our next meeting will be on the third Wednesday in November at 12:00 noon for Social Hour followed by a business meeting. We would be pleased to welcome any lady members of the Society. Come and join us every third Wednesday or on a drop in basis. I think you would enjoy yourselves.

Anne G. Jones, W.A. President.

## Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

The Choir will be giving a concert entitled "Hip Hip Hooray" on the following dates:

Saturday, October 22nd, 8:00 p.m. at the Centennial Theatre, North Vancouver.

Saturday, October 29th, 8:00 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church, Wales Street and 42nd Avenue, Vancouver.

Concert tickets and information available from Cyril Portman at the Choir Office, tel: 940-3318.

## British Pension Claimers

In last February's newsletter, we published a letter received by one of our members from the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners concerning the entitlement of retirement pensions for those living outside of the British Isles. We publish the text letter once again:

"The Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners is a group of unpaid volunteers whose chief aim is to put pressure on the U.K. Government to pay cost-of-living increase to British residents and widows pensions under the United Kingdom Social Security Scheme.

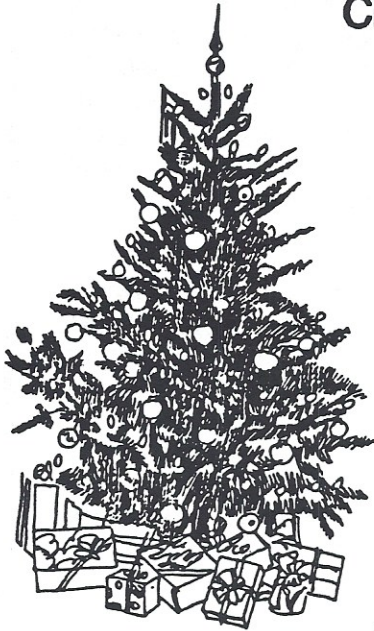
Pensions are payable at the same rates as in the United Kingdom in the EEC countries ( Portugal, Germany, France, etc ) and under reciprocal agreements to pensioners in, e.g. Austria, Cyprus, Malta, Mauritius, Finland, Sark, Iceland, Switzerland, Israel, Turkey, Jersey, and Guernsey. Pensioners in a further group of countries receive increases payable after the date an agreement entered into force: Bermuda, Jamaica, S. Ireland and the United States of America. We want equal benefits, since we paid national insurance contributions during our working lives in Britain.

In our fight to get indexing of pensions here, we would like to say we represent all U.K. pensioners ( and future pensioners ) now resident in Canada."

If anyone would like to receive more information about this issue, you can contact Bernard Jackson at 685-1877. If interest is significant, the Welsh Society would be pleased to allow all interested parties to meet at the Cambrian Hall at a pre-arranged time.



## Christmas Dinner Dance 1994



Held in the Red Dragon  
COCKTAILS AT 6:00 P.M.  
DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

*SAT, DEC 3*

Catering by Jordan's  
Music by "Hot Hit Productions"



### TICKETS:

\$25.00 - MEMBERS    \$28.00 - GUESTS

**Please Note:** As it was so popular last year, the Social Committee decided to hold the Dinner Dance in the Red Dragon again. However there is a maximum capacity for seating downstairs and so only a limited number of tickets are being sold.

**AVOID LATER DISAPPOINTMENT. BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

They will be on a first come, first served basis and no refunds are given, except in the most extreme of circumstances.

## Children's Christmas Party 1994

This year the party will be held on Sunday, December 11th.

There will be carol singing and games for the youngsters to play, yummies to eat and of course what would a Christmas Party be without a visit to Santa?!!

**ATTENTION:** Owing to the fact that Gaynor Owen will be travelling home to Wales at the end of November, she has requested that anyone who has a child/grandchild up to the age of 12, attending the party, to submit the name(s) by November 12th at the latest.

Thank you for your co-operation.



## Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir

This September we started our third year and would like to invite men of all ages, who are interested in singing enjoyable music, to come along to our rehearsals at John Oliver School.

During the past two years we have made an impressive start and have performed concerts in most of the lower mainland districts. We ended our past season with invitations to sing at the Pacific North West Gymanfa Ganu in Nanaimo and the Four Choirs Festival in Whistler. This season, our musical directress Morna Edmundson is planning a new exciting repertoire for us, and so you may wish to note our upcoming concerts.

Saturday, October 29th, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. at Broadmore Baptist Church, Richmond, "H.M.S. Chorus" in conjunction with the Richmond Chorus.

Saturday, November 12th, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. at White Rock Baptist Church, "Sea Chanteys" with guest soloist David Tuck.

For further details please phone:

Milt Morgan at 298-6085.  
Jimmy Murphy at 526-2960.

Note: Also contact these gentlemen for "Entertainment '95" books.

## Folk Dancing News

We won the hearts of spectators in Bellevue!

Our trip down there for the National Gymanfa Ganu was quite a triumph - particularly for those who helped with the workshop classes.

It seems that folk dancing is very popular south of the border, as many people commented that they were delighted and amazed at what can be achieved after learning just a few basic movements. We hope it will conjure the same sort of interest up here at the Twmpath Ddawns.

Our group did very well in instructing the

novices. Apparently we had well over 40 attending the early morning class (beginners) and more than 60 in the afternoon (intermediates). Definitely an achievement not to be sneezed at, especially as our group were patient, considerate and kept a good sense of humour throughout. Well done to them all.

On the Saturday morning we gave a demonstration in the Hyatt's Wintergarden. As we always try to include some of the spectators to join in some of the easier dances, innocent bystanders were suddenly participating in some of the routines! Mind you, they were great fun and had a wonderful time with us - we thank them all for being so good natured and actually, they picked up the steps fairly easily. Now that's real sportsmanship!

We're hoping for a lot of support from everyone when we hold our "Twmpath Ddawns" on Saturday, October 15th at Cambrian Hall. Please do come and enjoy yourselves for some olde tyme dancing.

Refreshments are served during the evening and the dances performed won't be too exhausting for those not used to them!

The "Dawns" begins at 8:00 p.m. in the upstairs hall. Admission for Society members is \$3.00 - with a "plate" if you can.

We had a glorious time performing at the Anniversary Dinner, October 1st. Our routine was the same one as we had done in Nanaimo, including the men's broom dance and the ladies' duet.

From October onwards, the Folk Dancers plan to have a Social Evening every fourth Thursday. Anyone who wishes to drop by occasionally, rather than on a regular basis, is more than welcome.

Further information regarding any of the above items can be obtained from Jack and Bertha Smith at 683-1335.

Lynne Hughes-Fox.



## FEATURE PAGE

### **Wales Endeavour to Shed it's Coal-Blackened Legacy**

By Madelaine Drohan, European Bureau,  
Aberpennar, Wales.

The heart of Welsh coal country has changed dramatically from the way it was depicted in the bleak, 1940 film, "How Green Was My Valley". The quickest way a visitor finds that out is by mentioning the film to former coal miners Bill Myring and Terry Dower.

They agree that Hollywood's portrayal of life in a grimy coal town more than 50 years ago was accurate. But Mr. Myring and Mr. Dower say too many foreign investors believe the polluted and dreary Wales of the film still exists, which makes their job of trying to save the Cynon Valley from economic stagnation extremely difficult.

The former miners are members of the valley's borough council. It has been so successful fighting the Hollywood image that Japanese owned Hitachi Consumer Products (U.K.) Ltd. and Gooding Sanken Ltd., a manufacturer of power supplies for computers and printers now operate plants nearby.

But the male unemployment rate is more than 30 per cent in the Cynon Valley and most of the jobs for women are low skilled, low paid and part time. The enduring negative image crated by the film doesn't help. Mr. Myring says, "We are constantly reminding potential investors that those days are completely gone."

Richard Llewellyn, who wrote the best-selling book on which the movie was based, wouldn't recognise the network of valleys just to the north of Cardiff these days - in part because of all the money poured into the area by the British

government, the European Community an the Welsh Development Agency. The latter alone has pumped an estimated C\$1.57 billion into roads, utilities, buildings and environmental operations into South Wales in the past six years.

Once black with the grime of more than 500 collieries, the valleys are green once more.

The disappearance of polluting industry has helped. So has government's effort to remove all traces of former mines and reclaim the land spoiled by coal tips - the heaps of rock, mud and coal discharged by mines. The program began in 1966, after 28 adults and 116 children were killed in Aberfan when a coal tip slid down a mountain and crushed the local school.

"There are playing fields over the mine I used to work at in Penrhiwceiber," Mr. Dower says, "And down the road whee the new school is, there used to be a tip that had been burning for 20 years before they finally put it out."

At it's peak, in the early part of this century, the Welsh coal industry fuelled the ships and industrial engines of the world. It was said that among the traders crowding the floor of the Coal Exchange in Cardiff, could be found the highest concentration of millionaires in the world.

Article reproduced from the Globe and Mail's Report on Business section.

Submitted by Jeff Owen.

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# OCTOBER 94

# HYDREF '94

NOVA COSTA  
Males

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# NOVEMBER 94

# TACHWEDD '94

NOVA COSTA  
Males

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