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Hydref i Tachwedd
1995



October to November
1995

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Drawn by W. H. Rickett

The Menai Bridge, Bangor

Engraved by J. Rogers

Archives Project

Missing from the Archives are the following issues of the newsletter. If any member has a copy and wishes to donate it to the Society, we should be very grateful.

Any prior to 1975

1975 - April, October, November

1976 - October, November

1977 - 1978 missing altogether

1979 - January, May, September, November, December

1980 - March, May, September, November, December

1981 - February, March, May, September, November

1982 - January, March

1984 - April

1986 - January, November

1991 - missing altogether.

Elizabeth Murray, Archives Coordinator.

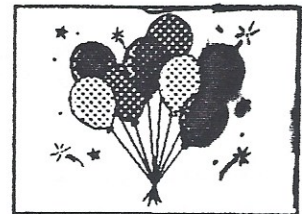
Dance those "blues" away!

Another night of line-dancing at the Red Dragon will be held sometime in November. This is so that everyone who will be attending the Christmas Dinner Dance will in excellent shape to strut their stuff.

We have expert instruction in Pam and ~~Kath~~ Williams, and they make learning fun.

If you want to join in the fun, then come down on a Saturday night and have a giggle along with the crowd!

A small note to Ken Owens to wish him well - from all his friends in the Welsh Society.



The Fortunate Isles

I come from the land
of the Celtic band
Of the golden sand
Of the alder and the oak
Where the Druids woke
I come from the Fortunate Isles

I come from the land
Of the Miner's Yoke
The anthracite smoke
The hardened steel
The potter's wheel
I come from the Fortunate Isles

I come from the land
of the fabled loom
Arthur's tomb
Of the sacred hymn
Of the poetic whim
I come from the Fortunate Isles

Submitted by Isla Jane Kail

"You're Leaving ?!!!"

It was with sad regret that October's General Meeting received the news that Jack and Bertha Smith will be leaving the Vancouver area to live in Nelson, where they have been previously spending their summers. This momentous turn of events has left in it's wake, Jack's resignation as Treasurer of the Welsh Society, and Bertha leaving the post as Instructor of the Welsh Folk Dancers of Vancouver. Jack has earned the respect of all who had worked with him, and Bertha has left a wealth of instruction that will surely last a long time.

The society sends a hearty farewell and good wishes to them both.

In light of Jack's resignation, the Welsh Society would like to extend a warm thank-you to John Morris, who will be assuming the position of Treasurer starting in January of next year.

Coming Events

Christmas Dinner Dance 1995

Saturday, December 9th

In the Red Dragon

Catering by Jordan's

Music by "Hot Hit Productions"

Admission: \$27 each for members
\$30 each for guests.

Tickets are available from Mrs. Gwen Tonack at 738-3377 and Mrs. Gaynor Owen at 946-4956, but be sure to book early as seating is limited.

Squares for the Raffle Prizes are sold in Red Dragon on Saturday nights.

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17th

PLEASE CALL MRS. GAYNOR OWEN (946-4956) BY NOVEMBER 25TH AT THE LATEST TO LET HER KNOW IF YOUR CHILD/GRANDCHILD WILL BE ATTENDING THE PARTY - THANK YOU.

Mulled Wine Evening

Saturday, December 2nd

Carols, music, refreshments, decorating of the tree, reading of "A Child's Christmas In Wales".

Hallowe'en Fun Night

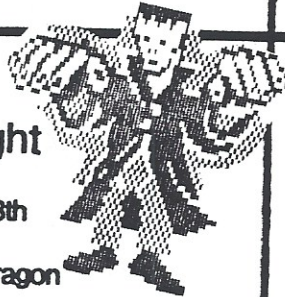
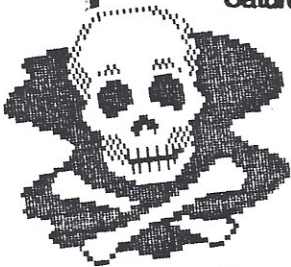
Saturday, October 28th

At the Red Dragon

Chili and Buns served
(by donation)

Dressing down optional!

Games and more games to play



The Second Annual Noson Lawen of 1995

Saturday, November 4th at the Red Dragon

All Are Welcome !

Cawl Cennin (Leek Soup) will be served

Don Murray, our illustrious host, is still looking for people to take part in the Entertainment portion of the program. If you feel that you have a talent that you'd like to show off to a small crowd of "fellow Cymreig", then give Don a call. You can contact him at 261-6571.

Look what you've missed !

This year's Anniversary was noted as a complete success by all who attended. The food was delicious, the entertainment enjoyable, and the company of friends were as warm as ever.

We do hope to see you there next year !

"Red Dragon" Summer Schedule

In response to some missing faces during the summer's Saturday night socials, the social committee would like to remind everyone that the "Red Dragon" is still open during the summer months at the usual times.

It should be noted here that the only time it is closed is for two weeks during the Christmas season. We'll let you know exactly when in following newsletters.

Obituary

Some sad news is that long-time Society member Mrs. Lettie Roberts passed away recently.

Mrs. Roberts, herself a Canadian, was born of Welsh parents. Her husband Bob was a native of North Wales and they married during the last war. She was a teacher in the Vancouver area for many years.

All of her friends in the Welsh Society will miss her very much.

Membership Report

It's the first week of Fall with everything coming to life at the Cambrian Hall. Your membership chairperson is happy to report that we now have 187 members. We have had eight new members since July, and we hope that they will all enjoy what we have to offer and more importantly, bring new ideas and enthusiasm to our Society.

Welcome to new members:

Myfanwy Griffiths - Vancouver
Victor Griffiths - North Vancouver
Laurie Hodges - Vancouver
Mavis James - Vancouver
Steve Wilcockson - Vancouver
Trevor (Art) Jones and Narie Kinoo - Vancouver

The above new members are all involved in the Welsh Lessons.

Also we welcome back Haydn Thomas - White Rock. Nice to have you back Haydn.

Beverly Thomas, Membership Secretary.

Thoughts of the day...

The best way to destroy an enemy is to change him into a friend.

If you tell the truth you do not have to remember anything.

The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved.

What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other.

Gymanfa Ganu

Sunday, November 5th,
(afternoon)

Cambrian Hall

John Prichard, Chairperson
Tim Dyck, Conductor
Alan Tucker, Solist
Mrs. Enid Lewis, piano accompanist

Refreshments served afterward

(For more information, see "Church Service")



Welsh Lessons

Welsh Lessons have gotten off to a great start with eight new learners and two second year students in Dr. Evans' class. Captain Lampshire-Jones has six of what we like to call "advanced students" under his capable wing. With sixteen in the class, we regret we cannot accept any more at this time.

It is very encouraging to have several young people interested in learning the language of their forefathers. We hope they will come out to some of the other activities of your Society, and get to know more about Wales.

A special thanks to Anne Jones for coming to the rescue when the Captain had to make a sudden trip to Alaska. We were a lively group, and there was much merriment when we tried to say in Welsh what we could or would do in cases of emergency. We have a way to go yet before we could handle a "naw un un" call. It was very helpful having Anne making so many things clear to us.

A real big thanks also to Eirlys Ann Thomas for her efforts in trying to round up books for us. It is not an easy task, but every spare book is much appreciated Eirlys, Diolch yn Fawr!

Written by Beverly Thomas.



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Box 2978, Main Post Office, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X4

Past Forgetting Concert, Royal Theatre,
Victoria, Thursday, November 9th.

The Gymanfa Ganu: A brief History

It is not generally known, but a fact nevertheless, that part singing had its origin and early development among the Cymry, or as the English called them, the Welsh. A famous historian, Giraldus, writing in 1188, speaks of their skill in vocal music, which they sang in parts and not, as elsewhere, in unison. This skill and custom, developed through the ages, finds its expression today in the Gymanfa Ganu, the Assembly or Festival for Sacred Song.

This institution, in its present form less than a century old, is expressive of the soul of the Cymry, or Welsh, since it gives an outlet for their deep and fervent religious feeling through the medium they love best, the music of human voices blended in harmony. It is, as it must be to be Welsh, a democratic institution, for persons in all positions in life take part in it. It is devoted to four-part singing of hymns and anthems, and has given the congregational singing of the Welsh people concededly first place among the nations.

The beginnings of the Gymanfa Gany were humble, in the little chapels and churches which in such numbers dot the hills and vales of Cambria. After the regular religious service was over the congregation would remain for an hour of song. Unaccompanied by any instrument, led by a leader, innocent perhaps of musical degrees, who sounded the pitch without even a tuning fork, the congregation would be drilled for the forthcoming Gymanfa. For months, a few selected hymns and an anthem or two would be rehearsed then in a common meeting place congregations of one neighbourhood or denomination would unitedly render the selections so prepared under a conductor specially qualified and chosen. To hear such an outpouring of balanced trained voices leaves an indelible memory.

Since the demands of part singing could not be met by hymns of simple character, meant to be and usually sing in unison, hymns were composed or adapted for the more harmonious phase of vocal music. Some of these composers such as Ieuan Gwyllt, have produced tunes which, according to the greatest musicians take rank among the masterpieces of the world.

The Gymanfa Ganu has been an incentive and an inspiration to the best talents among the Welsh composers, for to them there can be no greater glory or higher recognition than to have an accepted place in such an institution.

Music, like religion, speaks a universal language, and like it, too, it uplifts and benefits all it teaches.

What Value A Member?

Ten little members standing in a line;
One disliked another and then there were nine.
Nine ambitious members offered to work late;
One forgot her promise and then there were eight.
Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven;
One lost enthusiasm and then there were seven.
Seven loyal members got into a fix;
They quarrelled over programs and then there were six.
Six members remained, with spirit and drive;
One moved away, then there were five.
Five steadfast members wished that there were more;
One became indifferent and then there were four.
Four cheerful members who never disagreed....
Til one complained of meetings, then there were three.
Three eager members, what could they do?
One got discouraged, then there were two.
Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done;
One joined a bridge club, then there was one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue;
Met with her neighbour, then there were two.
Two earnest members each enrolled one more;
Doubling their number, and then there were four.
Four determined members just couldn't wait;
Each won another and then there were eight.
Eight excited members signed up sixteen more;
In another six verses, there'll be a thousand twenty four.

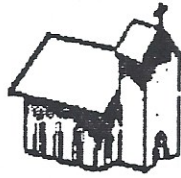
What kind of member are you?
One who makes things happen?
One who watches things happen?
One who wonders what is going on?

Anonymous.

From the B.C. Lupus Lighthouse, Summer 1995.

Submitted by Liz Murray.

Church Service



PLEASE NOTE:

For November, the Service will be held on Sunday, 5th, to correspond with the Gymanfa Ganu. In December it will be on Sunday, 17th.



Looking for "Catch Phrase" Books

We are still looking for any remaining "Catch-Phrase" books that members may have kept from previous year's Welsh Lesson classes. Any wishing to return one should contact Gwen Tonack or Beverly Thomas.

Closing Thought

Words are things, and a small drop of ink, falling like dew upon a thought, produces that which makes thousands, perhaps millions think.

LORD BYRON, 1788-1824



Our Welsh Heritage

In 1863, twenty six Welshmen from North Wales ventured forth from Liverpool to seek their fortunes in Canada. They sailed around half of the world eventually landing in Canada on the West Coast. The port that they landed in was Victoria, B.C. It had taken them six months on the sailing ship "Rising Sun".

Their journey continued for another 500 miles to the Cariboo District to mine for gold. One of their members, was Mr. Harry Jones, who passed away in 1936. Mr. Jones was elected twice to the British Columbia Legislature, in 1903 and 1907.

The famous Thomson River was discovered by a Welshman by the name of David Thomas. In the early 1900's the Welsh people were very much involved with the cultural life of Vancouver. They had their St. David's Day celebration, their twice yearly Hymn Festival, and during Easter week, they held their yearly competitive Festival for music and elocution, in which nearly 800 competitors took part.

In sport they had their own teams in soccer and in rugby, and in that game they won the "Miller Cup" in 1907.

In 1927 they incorporated the Welsh Society, and in 1929 built their own Hall (the only one in North America) for which members paid twenty five cents a month towards the building fund.

Membership currently stands at just under two hundred and meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Submitted by Milton Morgan.

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Hydref

October

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 The Welsh lessons/	3	4 Executive Meeting Yom Kippur	5	6	Anniversary Dinner
8 Church Service	9 Gwers Thanksgiving Day (CAN.) Columbus Day (U.S.A.)	10	11 General Meeting	12 Folk Dance practice officially begins	13	14 Red Dragon open
15	16 Gymraeg are held every	17	18 W.A. Meeting	19 Welsh Night	20	21 on Saturday Nights.
22	23 Monday evening from	24	25	26	27	28 Hallam's Fun Night.
29	30 7:30pm onwards	31 Halloween				


OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Tachwedd November

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Executive Meeting	2	3	4 New Year
5 Church Service & Gymnastia Gaml.	6 Welsh lessons/	7	8 General Meeting	9	10	11  Remembrance Day (CAN.) Veterans Day (U.S.A.)
12	13 Gwers Gymraeg every	14	15 W.A. Meeting	16	17	18 Red Dragon Pub
19	20 Monday evening from	21	22	23	24	25 always open on Saturday Nights, unless otherwise specified.
26	27 front 7:30pm onwards	28	29	30 Thanksgiving Day (U.S.A.)		