

Hydref i Tachwedd  
2002



October to November  
2002

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

*Cambrian News*

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Cadeirlan Bangor

Bangor Cathedral

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

VANCOUVER  
WELSH SOCIETY

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## *The Cambrian News*

From The Editor:

In this issue, readers will note several upcoming events in the near future which did not make it to last month's newsletter. Specifically the Dylan Thomas presentation at Simon Fraser next Thursday, the Goon Show on Friday and the relocated Orpheus Choir on Saturday.

I have taken the liberty of including the inaugural address by the new Archdruid of Wales, Dr. Robin Lewis (bardic name Robyn Lly'n). He is the first person to become Archdruid by virtue of being a Literary Medallist (Gold Medal at the Lliw Valley Eisteddfod of 1980) rather than a Chaired or Crowned poet. He was born in Llangollen, but his family moved to Nefyn, on the Lly'n Peninsula, when he was three, and there he has chosen to remain. He is the 28<sup>th</sup> Archdruid.

Please note the date of our next General Meeting – November 13<sup>th</sup>. We need a quorum to pass resolutions so do let your presence count!

David Llewelyn Williams

### *Inquiry*

Lynne Fox received a message from someone at home, asking if she knew another Welsh person living here, who is connected via a relative to St. Gwynin's Church in Dwygyfylchi. This person had visited Vancouver and is certain that they spoke to someone who told them of the connection. If it's someone in readership land, could they please let Lynne know at either her e-mail: elfynn@shaw.ca or her phone 604 – 266 – 0294 at which time she can provide them with further information.

## *Gymanfa Ganu*

Please note that our own Gymanfa Ganu will be held in the Cambrian Hall at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The singing will be conducted by Tim Dyck from Everett, Washington; the accompanist will be Margaret Airey and the soloist will be Nerys Haqq. Tecwyn Roberts will chair the occasion, which will be followed by tea downstairs to assuage the vocal chords. Do attend!

## *CHEPSTOW RACE NIGHT*

**Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>**, please come along and enjoy the fun of a night at the races, our turf accountants Eric and Milt are waiting to take your bets. Refreshments will be served after we have won all the money. The horses will be leaving the gate at 8.30pm.

## *MULLED WINE AND CAROL EVENING*

**Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>**, Christmas is approaching very fast so plans have been made for a wonderful evening of carol singing and Christmas joy. The Red Dragon will be open at 7.30pm and sausage rolls will be served along with Gaynor's secret recipe hot mulled wine. Any plates of Christmas goodies would make most welcome donations!

## *CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE*

**Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>**, Tickets are now on sale for this popular event. Please call Gaynor Owen at 946-4956 for information and tickets. The cost is Members \$27.00 and Guests \$30.00.

## *CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY*

**Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please call Gaynor Owen with the names of your children under 12 years of age by **NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>** so that Santa can get organized. The party will be in the afternoon at 2pm.

## *The Anniversary Dinner*

58 members and guests turned out for our Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and we were particularly pleased that Mrs. May Lievesley was able to join us and to welcome Ms. Heather Davies' mother, on a visit from the old country, as well as to greet newcomer Gethin Owen from Harlech, here for a two year stint of post-doctoral research at U.B.C. We missed Gwen and Tony Tonack, who were missing the event for the first time in years but relieved to learn that it was due to an engagement elsewhere which they had to attend.

Following the reciting of Grace by John Pritchard, we all tucked in to another superb roast beef buffet catered by Jordan's. After that, we were happy to settle down to watch two excellent videos brought along by Jeff Owen, covering all aspects of Wales; one with commentary by Richard Burton and the other by former Welsh rugby great Cliff Morgan. After they were over at 10.30 there was time for lively conversation until it was time to depart.

A most enjoyable evening and our thanks to the organizers, Gaynor Evans and Ann Roberts, and to Jeff and Gaynor Owen for their gallant service behind the bar.

T.R.

## *Invitation to Corvallis*

All are welcome to attend the Third Annual Welsh Lessons and Carols Service at First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe, Corvallis, Oregon on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

This service is bi-lingual and includes scripture and poetry readings, followed by Welsh hymns and carols. This year Scottish and Irish music will also be sung.

The Director will be Tim Dyck, Everett, WA; Bev Ratajak will be the organ accompanist.

A tea will follow the program.

For more information, contact Bev Ratajak at (541) - 259 - 4478.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Queen has received many messages of support on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee, and has asked that the enclosed reply be sent to yours with her gratitude and good wishes.

Sir Robin Janvrin  
Private Secretary to The Queen

June 2002



Prince Philip and I have been deeply touched by the many kind messages about the Golden Jubilee.

This anniversary is for us an occasion to acknowledge with gratitude the loyalty and support which we have received from so many people since I came to the Throne in 1952. It is especially an opportunity to thank all those of you who help others in your own local communities through public or voluntary service. I would like to think that your work will be particularly recognised during this Jubilee year.

I hope also that this time of celebration in the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth will not simply be an occasion to be nostalgic about the past. I believe that, young or old, we have as much to look forward to with confidence and hope as we have to look back on with pride.

I send my warmest good wishes to you all.

ELIZABETH R.

### The Cambrian Singers

Spring of 2002 proved to be the busiest Spring ever for the Cambrian Singers with performances every week from the beginning of February to the end of May. We sang in nursing homes, hospitals, senior housing, a church concert and were part of the evening performance again at the Celtic Festival in Fort Langley.

Almost before the Fall season started we were fully booked for the Fall and Christmas seasons and are already booking performances into 2003. Public performances include Harrison Hot Springs who contacted us in June to book us to start their Christmas celebration of Choirs. We will be performing in the Village Hall on Sunday, December 1 at 2:30 p.m. (weather co-operating.) Friday, December 6th. will find us at Van Duesen Gardens at 7:00 p.m. An afternoon Sunday concert will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the Parish of St. Saviour's, 9280 #2 Road in Richmond (between Williams and Steveston Highway) on December 15th. We are now booked at Burnaby Heritage Museum on Saturday, December 28th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m in the church.

It is with great sadness that we are without one of our most valued altos who is gravely ill at this time. Siân Konkin was diagnosed with colon/liver cancer this past summer. We are all praying that she will recover and be able to rejoin us.

We welcomed new member Jackie Chapman, who is from Wales. She has joined our soprano section. The choir has a complement of sixteen singers. We are now busy learning new music for our regular performance along with the music for the Christmas season.

Nerys Haqq



**Dylan Thomas Collector Jeff Towns to speak  
at Simon Fraser University Library.**

SFU Library in collaboration with SFU English Department is pleased to present Dylan Thomas expert, Jeff Towns in a lecture entitled "Dylan Thomas Bibliographical Curios".

Jeff Towns is the founder and owner of Dylan's Bookstore in Swansea. Established in 1971, it has become renowned for its collectable works and its new works on Dylan Thomas. It has also acquired materials from the libraries of some of Dylan's close friends, such as Vernon Watkins, Wynford Vaughan Thomas and Daniel Jones.

Mr. Towns will speak on the publishing history of the works of Dylan Thomas. There will be an accompanying display of first editions and other Thomas ephemera. Of particular interest are the letters between Thomas and Charles Fisher, a close friend during the '30s and a scribe for Canada's House of Commons for many years.

The lecture will take place on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. in Special Collections / Rare Books, 7<sup>th</sup> floor - room 7100, W.A.C. Bennet Library, Simon Fraser University.

Refreshments will be served.

Contact: Kim Minkus at 604 - 291 - 4304

e-mail: kminkus@sfu.ca

*The Challenge*

Readers will recall last month's challenge to decipher a weathered tombstone epitaph from 1888. Several partial attempts came to hand, but John Fritchard immediately produced the following interpretation. More recently Neville Thomas received another closely similar one from Idris Hughes in Comox .

Gymro mwyngalon,  
Edrych yma ar fy medd.  
Dwys ystyria  
Fel yr wyt ti - y bum innau,  
Fel yr wyf fi - y bydd dithau.

Warmhearted Welshman,  
Look here upon my grave.  
Consider seriously  
Like you are - I once was,  
As I am - you will be also.

Idris Hughes suggests the following variations:

"Cymro wyngalon" for the first line meaning "purehearted Welshman" and in the last line he suggests "y byddi dithau" which has the same meaning "you will be also", but is grammatically better!

All in all, an impressive response from both John and Idris. I'm sure this knowledge of their ancestor will delight the descendents. Da iawn wir!!

The Goon Mania Fellowship  
+ The Comedy Company  
present



The Annual Six Monthly  
**GOON SHOW**

Tickets: \$10 604-294-4332 or 604-737-7734

Fri. Oct. 18 ~ Cambrian Hall, 215 E17th Ave. Vancouver

Sat. Oct. 19 ~ Billy Bishop Legion, 1407 Laburnum St. Kits.

Sun. Oct. 20 ~ The W.I.S.E. Club, 1882 Adanac St. E. Van.

Door: 7pm ~ Show: 8pm

## YR HYBARCH ARCHDDERWYDD Cymru THE HONOURABLE ARCHDRUID of Wales



### "Fellow Gorseddogion:

I am very conscious of this honour, and thank you for it. I shall endeavour to maintain the standard which has been achieved by a number of remarkable people, including some of genius, who have held the office of Archdruid of Wales. My thanks go to my predecessor Meirion, for his wise leadership and his help to me in every detail.

It is unusual for the Gorsedd to engage in studying its own navel, and to ask exactly what sort of movement it is. We know a great deal about Iolo Morganwg and his genius, which created us through his lively imagination and highly original flights of fancy. Also Cyman, who gave a unique dignity and polish to our ceremonies. But today, I intend to ask exactly what manner of function we fulfil in contemporary Wales.

We are a society of poets, litterateurs, scholars, musicians and artists; drawn from among the supporters and lovers of the Welsh language and culture. Notwithstanding our colourful apparel, regalia and ceremonies, there is one englyn which encapsulates everything that we are:

***Nid ei chledd ond ei gweddi - a'i harddwch A rydd urddas arni;  
Mae nodded tu mewn iddi  
I'r Gymraeg, rhag ei marw hi.***

***It is not its sword but its prayer - and its beauty Which gives it dignity;  
There is sanctuary within it (the Gorsedd)  
For the Welsh tongue, lest it perish.***

For well over a century, there have been numerous movements formed specifically to protect and defend the Welsh tongue - some by constitutional and lawful means: others through more militant activities and law-breaking. From Cymru Fydd during the last century but one, to Cymuned, only last year. The list is as honourable as it is lengthy. There was - and there is - a need for each one of them.

But the Gorsedd of Bards is different. It is through our appearance and our ceremonies that we achieve our aims. Our membership is of a different nature. You cannot gain entry to the Gorsedd Circle merely by signing your name and paying a fee. Each and every one of us has gained acceptance either by examination, university degree or winning a competition: or has been honoured for some service of national importance or for a lifetime of unstinting service. In Wales, the Gorsedd is the fount of all honour.

All these other movements were necessary. During the century which has just ended, the percentage of Welsh-speakers fell from 54% to 18%. I shudder to imagine how calamitous last year's Census will prove to be, when the figures are revealed in due course.

At the start of the twentieth century, though Welsh was strong and a majority spoke the language, it was a despised tongue, regarded as useless, and held in contempt. It was a mere dialect to be looked down on, to be insulted, to be left behind and got rid of as soon as possible. In consequence, hardly anyone lifted a finger to preserve or protect it anywhere. It went into sharp decline, though, paradoxically, respect towards it started to increase gradually, until today, it has become a quasi-official language in its own land. The old Wales was more Welsh in speech, but less Welsh in spirit. Wales today is more Welsh in spirit though less Welsh in speech. Looking at contemporary figures, one may well ask: 'How much more parlous would the situation of Welsh have been today, had it not been for these various movements, and without the Gorsedd of Bards, to protect it?'

As we know, all these movements formed to safeguard Welsh were voluntary in nature. But some five years ago, the situation was transformed utterly, when Wales chose to grant itself a measure of self-government.

Following this, the Government of Wales Act 1998 has placed the legal responsibility for the language of Wales firmly upon the shoulders of the National Assembly. Section 32 of the Act states: 'The Assembly may do anything it considers appropriate to support the Welsh language.' These words carry the force of law, where the power and the responsibility have been transferred clearly and unambiguously from Westminster to Wales, where, of course, they ought to have remained throughout the centuries.

The Government of Wales appointed a Minister for Culture who has no Welsh. An appointment which has as much wisdom about it as if they had appointed a vegetarian to be Minister of Agriculture. In consequence, when Mr Dafydd Glyn Jones, one of the leading scholars of Wales attempted to assist our Government by contributing the fruits of his lifetime research and unique knowledge of the University of Wales they ridiculed and insulted him. To them, Dafydd Glyn was no more than an extremist, a dreamer, an agitator. But was not Iolo Morganwg also considered extremist, a dreamer and an agitator in his day?

It was only recently that the Government of Wales took upon itself to consider the meaning and obligations of Welshness. An ambitious report was produced, bearing the title *Our Language: Its Future* [published in English only]. It was explained how Welsh will, in time, have been preserved and will be equal in all respects with English. But: it is not foreseen that Welsh will, either in education or the great world outside, be anything other than an optional language, whilst English will remain, as it is now, compulsory.

I need only say this: compulsory English and optional Welsh have been the curse of Wales for centuries. They have been responsible for the subordinate status of Welsh in every sphere to this day. This was the cause of "The Blue Books" (a report on education in Wales in the early nineteenth century, which attributed all ills to the fact that the people spoke Welsh and not English): the object of the "Welsh Not" (a piece of wood hung around the necks of children who dared speak Welsh in school which marked their shame and caused them to be severely punished). It was these which turned our Welsh-speaking valleys into non-Welsh-speaking valleys - in accord with the deliberate intention of the government, and in which money was no object. The political will was there, to stamp out Welsh completely. The present Report shows, not only lack of comprehension, but lack of backbone. I ask: 'What was the purpose of transferring the responsibility for Welsh, if that responsibility is to be betrayed exactly as before?'

Where the sinister word 'compulsion' is concerned, we must grasp the nettle - in education, planning, public notices both indoors and out, advertising and the private sector generally. Yes, 'compulsion'! With Welsh, the language of Wales, prominent everywhere, being placed first or uppermost. I do not envisage aiming this compulsion at the individual citizen, but at the need to create a Welsh ambience everywhere throughout our country. This to be achieved within a definite time scale of, say seven years - no more. It was only by compulsion that they succeeded in decimating the Welsh language: it is only by compulsion that we shall restore it. We are already under compulsion to use English; compulsion to pay income tax; and compulsion to put up with wars declared at the whim of Tony Blair - why cannot Welsh be as compulsory as these, which, like them or not, we accept? And in order to ensure that the Government of Wales can appreciate and understand the extent and scope of its own problem, an independent Commission on the state and future of the language should be established - now.

**One of the main functions of the Gorsedd of Bards has been to act as the conscience of the Welsh nation. And to speak out loudly and firmly when the need is perceived - a milk and water approach will not do.**

When our only Government behaves, at best, like Philistines: at worst like the herd of swine who trample on our heritage, envisaged in Saunders Lewis's masterpiece *Buchedd Garmon*, then it is high time to speak firmly. 'He that hath ears to hear, let him hear'.

**Diolch yn fawr."**

Dec. 1 Sun  
 Carston Hot Springs  
 Cambrian Singout

# October 2002

## Mis Hydref 2002

Dec. 6 Friday  
 Van Dusen Gardens  
 Cambrian Singout

| Sunday  | Monday                          | Tuesday | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday                            |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 13<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Church Service<br>and te bach | 14<br>Thanksgiving              | 15      | 16 W.A. (Noon)<br>Cambrian Singout<br>Arbutus Care Cntr | 17 2 pm SFU Engrl.<br>Dylan Thomas Bio<br>Folk Dancers | 18<br>NOON<br>19<br>7:30<br>OPHEUS - CHANGE<br>Venue to WEST VINE<br>St. Stephen's Ave. Ok | 26<br>Red Dragon<br>Open 8:30 p.m.  |
| 20  | 21<br>Welsh Spelling<br>Evening | 22      | 23<br>Cambrian Circle<br>Singers                        | 24<br>Welsh Folk<br>Dancers                            | 25   |                                     |
| 27  | 28                              | 29      | 30  | 31<br>Welsh Folk<br>Dancers                            |  | Dec. 7 Sat.<br>Xmas Dinner<br>Dance |

## November 2002

### Mis Tachwedd 2002

Cyndethas Cynraeg Vancouver Welsh Society  
 Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.  
 V5V 1A6 Telephone:- 604 876-2815

|   |  |    |                              |                             |                                      |                                   |
|---|--|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3<br>11:00 a.m.<br>Church Service<br>and te bach.<br>Gymanfa Ganu | 4  | 5  | 6<br>7:30 p.m.<br>Exec. Mtg  | 7<br>Welsh Folk<br>Dancers  | 8<br>1<br>Cambrian Circle<br>Singers | 2<br>Red Dragon<br>Open 8:30 p.m. |
| 10  | 11<br>Langley<br>Remembrance Day<br>2:30 pm Orpheus<br>St. Nicholas RC | 12 | 13<br>7:30 p.m.<br>Gen'l Mtg | 14<br>Welsh Folk<br>Dancers | 15<br>Cambrian Circle<br>Singers     | 9<br>CHEFSTOW<br>RACES            |
|   |  |    |                              |                             | 16<br>Red Dragon<br>Open 8:30 p.m.   |                                   |

Dec. 15 Sun.  
 Children's  
 Christmas Party

Nov. 30  
 MULLED WINE  
 Evening