

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Hydref
2008

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Society Newsletter - Pylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



Greeting the Llanelli Choir's Arrival

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

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

The events during the visit of Côr Meibion Llanelli Male Choir were both uplifting and nostalgic and we are very grateful to all those who contributed to their success, but particularly to Lynn Owens-Whalen, the prime mover. As will be seen from the Building Report provided by Alcwyn Rogers and Lynn Owens-Whalen, much work has been done and continues to be done to repair the Hall to make it possible for events such as the Noson Lawen to be held. We owe these willing workers a large debt of gratitude.

I am grateful to Heather Davies for the photo on the front page; to Alcwyn for the photo of the workers and to Eifion Williams for his article on the concert. Heather also provided the prize, a quilted table runner and centrepiece, for the draw at the concert and worked hard with the others preparing for the Noson Lawen. Neville Thomas and his committee, Gaynor Evans and Gillian Rogers, are to be congratulated on achieving such a memorable event.

Note: **Sunday Oct 26th at 8.00 pm** on the Knowledge Network (Channel 5): **The World's Oldest Boy Band**, the story of the Fron Male Voice Choir and their amazing rise to superstardom.

David Llewelyn Williams

Welsh Proverb

Gwyn y gwêl y fran ei chyw

In the eyes of the crow, its chicks are white.

Y Noson Lawen

The Noson Lawen on the Thursday before the concert brought together members of our society and the visitors from Llanelli in an atmosphere full of 'hwyl ac hiraeth'. Our jovial M.C., Neville Thomas, exuded warmth and good humour as he introduced the various participants. A remarkable range of talents entertained an appreciative capacity audience.

In the first half of the program, the tone was set by John Owen's two tenor solos. He was followed by a recitation by Gwyn Evans and a bass solo by Byron Thomas of Llanelli, a founding member of the choir, accompanied by Helen Roberts, the Llanelli Choir Accompanist. Russell Roberts followed with a reading from Dylan Thomas and we were then treated to a beautiful flute solo by Fred Miyayoshi. John Pritchard read Welsh poems by I.D. Hooson and R. Williams Parry and the session closed with an impressive solo by Sharon Birrell with her accompanist Bea Blackford.

After the intermission, Teifryn Rees of Llanelli entertained us with a tenor solo made famous by that great tenor David Lloyd, *Elen Fwyn* and then John Morris from Llanelli treated us to his rapid fire stand up comic series of one liners and other jokes. David Lintern would have been enthralled! James Thomas played his guitar and sang "*The Bells of Rhymney*" featuring the bells of Welsh cities. He was followed by Merlyn Williams from Yellowknife who recited with great gusto a poem in the style of Robert Service entitled "The Face on the Bar-room Floor". The concluding acts started with two tenor solos by Eifion Thomas which included my mother's favourite, *Bugail Aberdovey*, followed by a duet with Teifryn Rees. David

Llewelyn Williams then recited a Welsh poem by Hedd Wyn and concluded with R. Williams Parry's tribute to Hedd Wyn. A most entertaining evening was brought to an appropriate close by singing *Unwaith Eto 'Nghumry Annwyl* led by John Owen who sang the first verse and Eifion Thomas who sang the second verse leaving the audience to join in the choruses and the final verse.

President Jane Byrne thanked all who had contributed to making this remarkable evening possible, through their support, through their work on the Hall, through devising the program or through their participation. We retired to the Red Dragon to socialize and to bask in the atmosphere created.

D.L.I.W.

Report from the Building Committee

Summer is proving to be a very busy time for improvements at the Cambrian Hall. As rentals during the fall, winter and spring increase, the Building Committee is recognizing that summer is an opportunity to make improvements to the hall. We do continue to have a Building Work Day on the third Thursday of each month (exception December) and usually have between ten and fourteen energetic and talented people cleaning, tidying, fixing, renovating and so the list goes.

In addition to regular maintenance and planned improvements, we have once again experienced significant damage to the hall. We have overcome new trusses to the roof, a new roof, solving condensation problems in the attic and installation of a B vent over the past five or six years. All have been extremely expensive and time consuming for those in the Welsh Society who have

supervised identifying and remedying the problems and have also faced the challenges posed by cost.

This year, in April / May we discovered a significantly sloping floor in the downstairs kitchen and a large wet patch in the plaster on the north wall behind the stage upstairs. With the assistance of structural engineers and a restoration company, the floor was uncovered to reveal moisture sodden and rotten flooring and joists under the kitchen. Plaster was removed on the middle floor in the North East corner to reveal dampness in the bricks. The engineering report traced the cause to porous bricks on the outside of the building. Moisture dropped to the lowest points which were the outside joists on the foundation under the kitchen which in turn transferred to the floor joists and floor. Over an obviously significant period of time, the joists rotted out, undetected as there was no evidence until late this spring.

Recommendations include both work outside and inside. Briefly outside, the bricks on the north east wall and the north wall of the Cambrian Hall must be re-pointed and sealed. Inside, a sloping concrete base has been laid on the soil under the kitchen that takes any flow of water that does penetrate the wall to a pump and then sump pump. Plastic has been extended to below the new treated lumber joists on the foundation and extend onto the concrete slab to ensure that all water stays away from lumber and is directed to exit the building. Treated lumber floor joists have been installed prior to rebuilding the kitchen with a new vinyl floor and kitchen cabinets reinstalled. Behind the stage, strapping has been placed between the bricks and new gyproc to keep any

possible moisture away from the plaster. We still have to face re-pointing and sealing of the bricks on the north and east walls.



Caption: 1 Wilf, Lynn and Alewyn with chisels and hammers kitted up to remove gyproc and plaster from an area behind the stage at the request of engineers

John and Pat Morris, Alewyn and Gillian Rogers, Jane Byrne, Eifion Williams, Mary Lewis, Gaynor and Gwyn Evans, Glyn and Lynne Shepard, Wilf and Lynn Owens-Whalen all shared time at the hall whenever workmen were present doing the repairs. Now our challenge once again, will be to generate special funds to pay for the costs of these repairs. In addition to this, John Morris has done a marvellous job putting new doors in the upper hall as well as base boards around the newly tiled front entrance hall. Wilf and Lynn Owens-Whalen put in a new sink and cabinet in the custodian room in the lower hall to replace the sink with a hole in the bottom of it. Eirlys Ann Thomas and Gillian Rogers have done a brilliant job of organizing and filing items in the upstairs workroom.

Please join us on the third Thursday of each month to maintain and improve our Cambrian Hall. There are many things to do so there is something for everyone's talent.

**TWO MALE VOICE CHOIRS
GIVE ROUSING PERFORMANCE
AT THE BELL CENTRE**

A large and appreciative audience attended Surrey's Bell Performing Arts Centre on September 27 to enjoy a joint musical presentation by the Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir and the Llanelli Male Choir from Wales. The Concert was sponsored by the Vancouver Welsh Society and the Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir.

The MC duties were ably carried out by John Pritchard, whose bilingual introductions and remarks set the tone for the evening's nostalgic celebration of Welsh choral music, whose theme was 'We'll Keep a Welcome'.

The two choirs alternated on stage to present a variety of musical items. The Llanelli Choir's repertoire consisted largely of popular Welsh folk tunes such as *Myfanwy* and *Ar Hyd y Nos*, together with some familiar Welsh and international sacred music.

In line with their established practice, the Orpheus Choir sang a number of international folk and popular songs, laced with occasional theatrical and humorous presentations. The Choir's rendition of a beautiful and intricate arrangement of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* was especially appreciated by the audience.

The guest soloist was young Welsh soprano Adele O'Neill, who this past summer placed first at the 2008 International Gold Medal Competition for Solo Voice at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. Although having frequently performed throughout

the UK and Europe, this was her first concert in North America.

Ms. O'Neill charmed the audience with her clear, seemingly effortless rendition of operatic arias such as the Jewel Song from *Faust*, as well as sentimental Welsh ballads such as *Unwaith Eto 'Nghymru Annwyl*. She also joined with Llanelli conductor Eifion Thomas in singing Time to Say Goodbye, the song made famous by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman.

The evening ended with the combined choirs singing the familiar Welsh hymn *Gwahoddiad* and a rousing rendition of We'll Keep a Welcome. This was preceded by presentations to the conductors, Llanelli's Eifion Thomas and the Orpheus' Liana Bob, the accompanists, Llanelli's Helen Roberts and the Orpheus' Barry Yamanouchi, and soloist Adele O'Neill.

Welsh Society President Jane Byrne and the Orpheus' President Ian Patterson also thanked all those members of the Orpheus and the Welsh Society who had helped organize the event. Both, together with Llanelli Choir vice-chair Peter Thomas, especially singled out Lynn Owens-Whalen, who had been mainly responsible for making the arrangements for the joint concert.

Peter Thomas also expressed the Llanelli Choir's gratitude to West Vancouver businessman Gren Thomas for a financial contribution that made the Choir's visit possible. On the previous evening members of the Choir were entertained at Gren's Red Lion Pub and Restaurant in West Vancouver.

Eifion Williams

Duffy

Mae'r gantores ifanc Duffy, sy'n wreiddiol o Nefyn ym Mhen Llŷn, wedi cael llwyddiant ysgubol yn ystod 2008, gyda'i sengl 'Mercy' yn cyrraedd brig y siartiau Prydeinig. Pan ddychwelodd i'w hardal leol i berfformio yng ngŵyl Wakestock, aeth John ac Alun i gwrdd â hi am sgwrs.

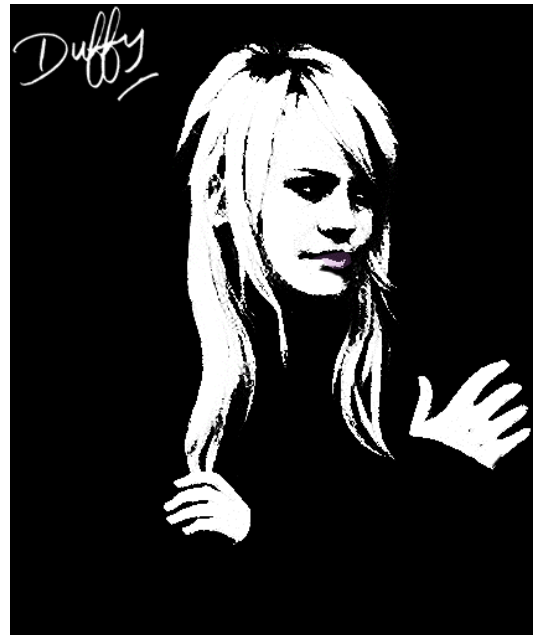


Here Duffy is being interviewed by BBC Wales. The interview, entirely in Welsh, after her appearance at the Wakestock festival on the Llŷn peninsula in Abersoch, can be heard on the BBC site.

Aimee Anne Duffy (born 23 June 1984 in Bangor.), known professionally as **Duffy**, is a singer-songwriter. Raised in [Nefyn](#) on the [Llŷn Peninsula](#) in North Wales, she moved to [Pembrokeshire](#) with her mother and sisters at the age of 10. After finishing her GCSEs in Pembrokeshire, Duffy returned to Nefyn when she was 15 and started singing in various local bands. Her first EP was in Welsh, produced by Awen Records in 2004. It contained three songs, *Dim Dealltwriaeth*, *Hedfan Angel* and *Cariad Dwi'n Unig* (No Understanding, Angel Flight, I'm Lonely My Love) and reached the number 1 spot on *Siart C2*.

In March 2008 her debut album entitled "Rockferry" was released by Polydor Records. It quickly reached the top of the UK Album Charts and has so far sold over 3.4 million copies world wide. Her single, "Mercy" went straight to number 1 and recently received the 2008 Song of the Year MOJO Award. "Mercy" has been featured in the TV shows, including the season finale of *Grey's Anatomy*.

She has been featured in festivals in France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium around Europe and also in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Later she was in North America. On September 4, Duffy performed on The Late Show with David Letterman and she was the musical guest on Saturday Night Live on September 27. She starts another North American tour in San Diego on Thursday. **She will appear at the Orpheum in Vancouver on Thursday, October 16** after which she will be in Seattle on the 17th.



Forthcoming Events

Sunday, October 12th Bilingual Church Service 11.00 am followed by Tê Bach.

Thursday, October 16th Building Work Day Duffy in Concert at the Orpheum 7.30 pm

Sunday, October 19th, Concert at 7:30 pm by Ysgol Bro Morgannwg

Ysgol Bro Morgannwg from Barry in Glamorgan is touring BC with a rugby team and girls' field hockey team. There are 60 very talented students and all are members of their choir. Amongst them they have a drama group, a harpist, an orchestra, soloists and dancers. We will be serving them a meal in the Red Dragon and then they will perform a concert in the upper Hall. Everyone is invited to the concert that will begin at 7:30pm. This young group sounds much like the Ystalyfera school group that came through a few years ago so we are expecting a great show. A minimum \$5 donation is requested to defray expenses.

Monday, October 20th at 10.30 am Welsh Speaking Group.

Lunch at the Cambrian.

You are cordially invited to join us for convivial company and lively conversation, from 11.30 - 1.30 on the 4th Wednesday of each month. On **October 22** we hope to present a historical film recreated in the Swansea area. A Bridge table will be an alternative for enthusiasts. A Book Exchange is planned, so if you are interested, bring a paperback or two which you have enjoyed and are prepared to exchange. Later in the year, we want to include topics of special interest to you. Please bring a packed lunch, which could be shared, if you wish.

Pat Morris

Saturday, November 1st Anniversary Dinner.

The Hall will open at 6.00 pm; dinner will be served at 7.00 pm.

Menu

Rolls & butter
Grilled Vegetable Orzo Salad
Vegetarian Lasagna
Teriyaki Chicken
Nugget potatoes with dill & feta
Hot Mixed Vegetables
Sliced Roast Beef With Gravy
Fresh Fruit Platter
Assorted Dessert Squares
Coffee/Tea, creamos, sugars

Entertainment to be arranged.

**\$37 for members; \$42 for non-members
Please reserve your tickets early with
Gaynor Evans (604-271-3134)**

Sunday, Nov. 2nd Bilingual Church Service at 11.00 am followed by Tê Bach. At 2.00 pm Gymanfa Ganu followed by Tê Bach.

Wed., Nov. 5th 7.30 pm Executive Meeting

Mon., Nov. 10th 7.30 pm General Meeting

Mon., Nov 17th 10.30 Welsh Speaking Group

Thursday, Nov. 20th Building Work Day

Wed., Nov. 26th Lunch at the Cambrian

Saturday, Dec. 6th Carols and Mulled Wine

Sunday, Dec 14th Children's Christmas Party (numbers permitting) Please submit names and ages of paid-up members' children or grandchildren (up to the age of 12) by November 14th to Gaynor Evans (604-271-3134).

Saturday, Dec. 20th Christmas Dinner.