

# THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

*Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver*

*Cambrian News*

*Medi  
2010*

*September  
2010*

*Society Newsletter - Fylchgrawn y Gymdeithas*



*Patagonia Evening Presenters*

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

*The Cambrian News*

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**From The Editor:**

This issue is mainly intended to give notice of our September events and advanced notice of some in October. The photo on the front page shows Paul Lievesley flanked by Neville Thomas and Victor Griffiths, the presenters of the well attended and interesting evening on the Welsh colony in Patagonia. This reminded me that Gwyl y Glaniad was celebrated there on July 28<sup>th</sup>, the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mimosa landing in Puerto Madryn carrying the first Welsh settlers in 1865. You may remember that tenor Rhys Meirion visited two years ago as an initiative to save the Trefelin Eisteddfod among other worthy causes. His visit was disrupted by the eruption of the Chilean volcano Chaiten – so it became known as Eisteddfod y Llwhc – the Ash Eisteddfod! This year he has returned with his supporters from Wales so I have included a report on his visit, written in *Llais yr Andes*, the Voice of the Andes. The Welsh traditions remain strong in Patagonia and are espoused by all ethnic groups.

This summer our society enjoyed a most successful Garden Party at the home of Lynn and Wilf Owens–Whalen. I trust a report will be forthcoming. The National and International Eisteddfodau have also been featured in Wales, but I'm unaware of any participation by our society. Congratulations to the Victoria "City of Gardens Chorus" which won third prize in the Women's Choir competition at Llangollen.

I include a letter from the Owens family which I omitted to include in the June newsletter. My sincere apologies.

David Llewelyn Williams

*Forthcoming September Events*

**North American Festival of Wales in  
Portland, Oregon. Sept 2 – Sept 5**

**Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 pm:  
Open House**

The Welsh Society will be extending a warm welcome to **Côr Godre'r Aran** at the Red Dragon. Light refreshments will be served and the bar will be open. If you would like to bring a plate to share with our guests, it would be appreciated. We look forward to meeting the choir from Wales on the eve of their concert. .

**Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
WALES, Land of Song  
Côr Godre'r Aran Male Choir in  
concert at Shaughnessy Heights  
United Church,**

**1550, West 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Vancouver, B.C.**  
The Welsh Society is proud to present a concert by one of Wales' premier choirs, following their appearance at the North American Festival of Wales in Portland. Tickets: \$25, \$20 for Seniors & Students Available either through the Society website or by phoning Alwyn Rogers at 604-742-1378. **See you there!**

**Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 11 am  
Dysgu Cymraeg. Sign Up!**

Join the group which is learning (or re-learning) Welsh using Internet resources. Specially designed for the ffearful and the fforgetful! If you want to start speaking Welsh or to practise basic conversation, you are welcome to come to the Hall before the church service. Weekly lessons will resume the week of Sept. 20. Ffoniwch Elizabeth for information: 778-837-6458.

**At 11:00 am Bilingual Church Service** followed by a **Tê Bach**.

**Monday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am  
Welsh Speaking –Siarad Cymraeg**

**Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
Quiz Night**

Society members always enjoy the Quiz Nights organised by Eifion Williams. This time as an added treat, we will be serving the Welsh favourite, Faggots and Peas. We will be requesting a donation of \$10.00 to cover the cost of the event.  
**Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 3:00 pm. Work Party Day**  
All volunteers welcome; lunch served!

*Advanced Notice of October Events*

**Wednesday October 13 at 12:00 noon  
Book Club Inaugural Meeting!**

**October 28 – October 31**

*Vancouver Celebration of Wales*

**Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. at 7:30 pm.  
Noson Lawen in the Cambrian Hall**

**Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for 7pm  
Anniversary Dinner.** Tickets at \$40 from Gaynor. (Phone: 604-271-3134 Email: [fgevens@telus.net](mailto:fgevens@telus.net) )

**Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>  
Dylan Thomas Presentation in the  
Cambrian Hall. from 11am to 3pm**  
At 7.00 pm, a Grand Concert will be held at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby, featuring The Vancouver Orpheus Choir, The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and soloists Eifion Thomas and Joy Cornock.

**Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Bilingual Church Service at 11:00 am  
followed by a Tê Bach.**  
At 2.00 pm our annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held conducted by Eifion Thomas, the Musical Director of the Llanelli Male Choir with soloist Joy Cornock from Abergwaun, Wales

**GODRE'R ARAN PERFORMERS**

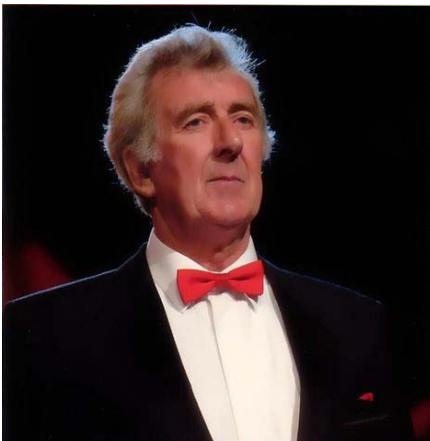
**HEULEN CYNFAL (Soprano)**



Heulen was born in Trawsfynydd and had her first experience of public performance at the age of 5. She began her vocal studies with Eirian Owen at the age of 8. The Eisteddfod tradition has played an important part in her artistic development; she has competed at local and national levels in both singing and recitation classes. She won first prize at the National Eisteddfod in 2009 in the youth solo class, together with a major award for spoken verse. In 2010 she was a finalist in the Urdd National Eisteddfod.

**THE THREE BASSES**

**TOM EVANS**



A farmer, who has achieved the very highest standards as an amateur singer. Winner of the open baritone solo at the National Eisteddfod 9 times and one of only a handful who have won the National Eisteddfod's Blue Riband on two occasions. Twice winner of

Llangollen International Eisteddfod's Princeps Cantorum. Has performed worldwide and recorded 3 CD's.

**TREBOR LLOYD**



A banker whose interest in music has found various outlets; conductor of a male choir, an adjudicator, conductor of Cymanfaoedd Canu, a chorister and a highly respected soloist. Has numerous National Eisteddfod successes to his credit and he was the winner of the Blue Riband at the 2009 National Eisteddfod.

**SION GORONWY**



A history graduate, Sion continued his vocal studies at postgraduate level in London before embarking on a freelance career. He has appeared with Glyndebourne Opera, English Touring Opera and Opera North. Performances for the summer of 2010 included Beethoven's 9th symphony, Verdi's Requiem and a season with Garsington Opera.

**Notable International Events**  
**2010 Ryder Cup; Oct 1 – 3**  
**Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, Wales.**

Created by Sir Terry Matthews, who was born in the then Celtic Manor Nursing Home and grew up in Newbridge. He moved to Canada and together with Michael Cowpland created Mitel, a very successful Ottawa electronics company. Later he founded the equally successful Newbridge Networks.

Although Matthews emigrated to Canada as a young man, he takes a considerable interest in his home country and spends much time there. Matthews bought Celtic Manor in 1980, ploughing £100M into the project. Firstly the 19th century Manor House was renovated, while in 1991 plans were unveiled to develop two new golf courses and a convention centre. Matthews had become friends with golf course architect, the late Robert Trent Jones whose family roots were in Aberyswyth. Work began on the **Roman Road** course in 1992, named after the main route connecting the fortress of Caerleon with the town of Caerwent, which crosses the land. In 1994 the **Coldra Woods** course was started, as well as the £10m golf clubhouse hotel. Interior design was completed by Patrick Goff of Goff Associates, the son of Welshman Roy Goff, who managed the site when it was the nursing home in which Matthews was born. The Celtic Manor was Hotel of the Year in 2002, and won two European Design Awards in 2001. Matthews commented, *"I think the resort can act as a magnet to draw new investment into Wales from across the UK and overseas. I did my best to put up a building that you can see from the West End of London and I didn't come far short of it!"*.

**Llanberis climbers conquer**  
**unclimbed Artic peak on Baffin Island**  
(Hywel Trewyn Daily Post Jun16 2010)

**Three Welsh climbers; Mike Turner, 43, and Stuart McAleese, 34, both from Llanberis and Mark Thomas, 35, from Cardigan, became the first in history to conquer a 1,400 metre rockface on Baffin Island.**

Temperatures plummeted below minus 20 and they wore special clothing to avoid frostbite on the precarious granite face. Strong cold winds in their faces made their incredible task more difficult. 24 hours of daylight allowed them to climb for 12 hours a day. It took 20 days of hard climbing with 18 nights spent sleeping in portaledges – tents hanging vertically from the cliff face. They almost ran out of time and food – over an hour each morning was spent thawing water to drink.

The three travelled by plane to the hamlet of Clyde River and 100km. over the frozen sea ice by skidoo with Inuit guides. The climb had to be completed before the ice melted and mosquitoes arrived.

They named the route they took Artic Monkeys and the summit Welshman's Peak, a privilege accorded to those making the first ascent. The feat, completed in May, has now been recognized by colleagues around the globe and is the talk of the climbing world.

Stuart McAleese, who has returned to his day job as an instructor at Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig, said "Not a lot of people go on big expeditions. We'd like to thank family and friends for supporting us. There's nothing like an expedition to make you feel alive and appreciate life, but it's nice to be back home among the peaks of Snowdonia."

**Order of Canada awarded to member of Ottawa Welsh Society.**

Dr Stanley Hughes, an active member of the Ottawa Welsh Society, has been awarded the prestigious Order of Canada for his life-long contribution to science. Dr Hughes was born in Llanelli and is a graduate of the University of Wales (B.Sc; M.Sc; D.Sc). His specialization is mycology (the scientific study of fungi). After working as an assistant to the Plant Pathologist at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, he was appointed as assistant mycologist at the International Mycology Institute at Kew in Surrey, England. He relocated to Canada in the early fifties and worked as mycologist at the Easter Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre at Agriculture Canada until 1983 where he remains an Honorary Research Associate to this day.

Dr Hughes has received many awards in recognition of his pioneering work in the field of microfungi, including the Jacob Eriksson Gold Medal, Royal Academy of Science (1969), the George Lawson Medal of the Canadian Botanical Association (1981), & the Distinguished Mycologist Award from the Mycological Society of America. Dr. Hughes has held high positions in academic and learned societies, including that of President of the Mycological Society of America and Vice-President of the International Mycological Association. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr Hughes has never forgotten his Welsh roots. He is a familiar face at Ottawa Welsh Society events, and has continued his abiding interest in Welsh life and literature.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr, Stan!

Pawl W. Birt, Llywydd/President  
Ottawa Welsh Society.

25<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Dear John,

It has been several months since Dad died and with this time to reflect it is more apparent than ever how supportive, caring and generous the Welsh Society has been to our family, especially during this recent trying time. We are grateful that Dad found wonderful friends in the Society, many of those friendships firmly grounded when he actively contributed to the maintenance and improvement of the Cambrian Hall. He looked forward to all Welsh events and we treasure the enthusiasm and happiness he enjoyed at the Christmas dinner just a month before he died. At the Hall, Dad knew he was amongst friends who genuinely enjoyed his company. He enjoyed being with his friends, loved the cultural and social programmes – he loved it all!

Mum, Wilf and I would also like to thank all those who generously put together the reception after the celebration of Dad's life. The food was, as always, delicious and the atmosphere gratefully uplifting. It was a kind gesture of continuing love and support that we have experienced throughout. We know that Dad would have been humbled but delighted that so many contributed to the building fund in his name.

As a token of our gratitude, please add this donation to that fund with our love. There is no doubt in our minds of a bright future for the Vancouver Welsh Society. How could there be when there is a community of caring friends joined by a common interest in all things Welsh, alive and well here in Vancouver

Gratefully,  
Phyllis, Wilf and Lynn

### O'r Môr i'r Mynydd gyda Rhys Meirion

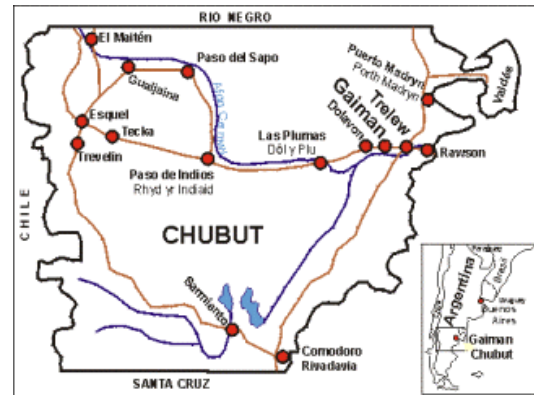
Roedd ymweliad y tenor enwog Rhys Meirion i'r Wladfa eto yn ffordd o orffen pennod oedd wedi ei agor ers dwy flynedd ac roedd wedi cael dalfyrru gan losgfynydd Chaiten! Syniad y daith y tro yma oedd i Rhys rannu'r llwyfan gydag artistiaid lleol mewn sawl tref a dinas a dechreuodd yn Comodoro Rivadavia. Roedd y cyngerdd yna wedi cael ei gansio'r tro diwetha oherwydd llwch y llosgfynydd felly roedd Rhys yn awyddus i beidio a siomi'r bobl yna. Wedyn dechreuodd ar raglan flinedig iawn o gyngherddau yn Nhrelew, Trevelin ac Esquel a Chymanfa Ganu yn y Gaiman. Yn anffodus roedd Rhys wedi dal fflw wrth deithio cymaint o oriau mewn awyren ac roedd rhaid iddo gansio'r cyngherdd ym Mhorth Madryn ond aeth o yn ôl ar ddiwedd y daith er mwyn cyflwyno noson fendigedig arall i orffen y daith.

Yn ogystal â'r rhaglen yn Nhalraith Chubut, cafodd Rhys wahoddiad i ganu mewn cinio swyddogol yn Buenos Aires yn Llysgenhadaeth Prydain. Roedd yn noson wych ac un o bleserau'r daith hon oedd presenoldeb teulu Rhys – Nia, ei wraig ac Osian, Elan ac Erin ei blant. Roedd Elan ac Erin wedi paratoi nifer o eitemau i'w cyflwyno yn y cyngherddau ac roedd pawb wrth eu bodd yn eu clywed yn canu unawdau a deuawdau ar y noson arbennig ac drwy gydol y daith. Roedd un deuawd arbennig iawn yn Noson Lawen Esquel pan gytunodd Osian i ganu 'Dwy Law' gyda'i Dad – profiad unigryw ac un oedd yn dangos bod dyfodol disglair ym myd canu ar gael i blant Rhys pe dymunant!

**(Llais Yr Andes, rhifyn Awst 2010)**

Note: to see Rhys and his girls at the Embassy, go to YouTube, enter his name and *UK Government Buenos Aires*.

### From the Sea to the Mountain with Rhys Meirion



I left this article in its original Welsh to emphasize the strength of the language in Patagonia. It describes Rhys' tour performing in concerts with local artists in Comodoro Rivadavia, Trelew, Trevelin, Esquel and Puerto Madryn, a Gymanfa in Gaiman and a Noson Lawen in Trelew and in Esquel. He was accompanied by his family, Nia his wife and Osian, Elan and Erin, his children. He was also invited to sing at an official dinner at the British Embassy in Buenos Aires (recall that the Ambassador is a Welsh speaking woman!), on which occasion his two daughters also performed as they did throughout the tour to great acclaim. Once, at a Noson Lawen in Esquel, Osian also sang a duet with his father. A talented family!

Rhys was accompanied on this tour by a small group of supporters from Wales. Clare Whitehouse, the writer of the article, escorted the group, who through the kindness of travel companies, the Chubut Provincial Government and local people, had an unforgettable opportunity to experience all that Patagonia had to offer from the natural world to the scenery to the people to their culture. A pity we weren't there!