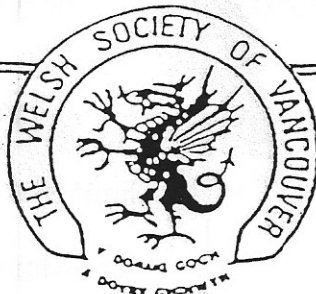


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2004



SEPTEMBER
2004

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Above: The picturesque town of Bala, in the heart of Wales,

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

VANCOUVER
WELSH SOCIETY

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Secretary:

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David Llewelyn Williams

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Social Committee:

Gaynor Owen 946-4956

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This edition has been sent out early in order to alert members to the forthcoming events in the Fall. Sadly it also records the tributes to four who have contributed much to our Society in the past. I am grateful to Eifion Williams for the material on Dr. Tec Jones which was abstracted from his article in *The Celtic Connection*.

Since starting to put together this issue I must also report the sad news of the very recent death of Bev Thomas who has worked so tirelessly representing the Women's Auxiliary for the Society. An appropriate tribute will appear in a later edition but I'm sure that all our thoughts and sympathies are with Gordon and his family at this time.

Rentals:

Readers will note that Cambrian Hall rentals are now in the capable hands of Mr. Abe Latif.

We understand that Alan and Tima Jones are enjoying the heat in Princeton and are well established in their new venture. The 14 units of their hospitable motel all have air conditioning and a special welcome awaits any Welsh Society member on their way to the Okanagan and the southern interior. Be sure to visit:

The Cedars Motel

1-250-295-3237

Box 567, 139, 3rd St. Princeton, B.C., V0X 1W0

September Church Service:

Please note that the September Church Service will take place on Sunday the 19th (rather than the 12th) so that its preparation would not to impact on the "Celtic at the Cambrian" evening on the 11th. Celebrants at this latter event thus have a full week to recover!

David Llewelyn Williams

Forthcoming Event

Please take note that the Anniversary Dinner celebrating the 75th year of the Cambrian Hall will take place on Saturday October 16th. Details will follow but do reserve early by contacting Gaynor Evans.

Annual Golf Tournament

The Welsh Society's Annual Golf tournament took place this year on July 3rd at the Poppy Estates Golf Course in Aldergrove. The weather was pleasantly warm and the course provided an interesting challenge to the participants, some of whom had journeyed from as far a-field as Vancouver Island.

Following a suitable opportunity to replace lost fluids, a buffet dinner was served in the clubhouse. This was in turn followed by the prize giving ceremony presided over by Tecwyn Roberts, who had arranged that no-one who participated would leave empty handed!

The Men's Low Gross winner was Tim Williams with a score of 71. Tim also had the fewest putts with 29 and the longest drive (closely followed by Nicolas Williams).

The Men's Low Net winner was Tecwyn Roberts with a net score of 63 (closely followed by Gwyn Evans at 64). Rob Barclay won the K.P. on the #1 handicap hole.

Deirdre Roberts won the Ladies' Low Gross with a score of 87, and Linda Hughes won the Ladies Low Net with a score of 66. The longest drive winner was Irene Evans.

Of course the main event within the tournament was the North-South Challenge. This year the North Wales team composed of Gwilym Evans, Andrew Thomas, John Williams and Tim Williams were clear winners of the trophy.

Thanks were expressed to Tecwyn Roberts for arranging the venue and to Tecwyn and Gwyn Evans for putting on a most convivial event.

The Celtic Connection Presents:

**The First Annual Masters of Golf
Tournament**

Mylora Golf Course, Richmond
Saturday, September 25th
\$75 per player (includes dinner)
For information call 604-434-3747
Or maura@celtic-connection.com

At long last a tournament for the Celtic people and their friends. We trust that Welsh golfers will rise to the challenge and that they will bring home many of the trophies to be proudly displayed in the Cambrian Hall. There will also be ample opportunity for less competitive fun golf for those so inclined. All are welcome so let's see a good turnout.

GWEN TONACK

During the beautiful hot summer we lost a wonderful friend and a faithful member of the Welsh Society. Gwen Tonack passed away on Saturday July 10th after loosing her battle with cancer. She enjoyed life to the fullest and loved to talk about her childhood in Angelsey. She would also talk about Penoka (on the prairies) where she met and married Tony 57 years ago. Gwen kept in touch with some of the friends she made while serving in the Red Cross and every time she and Tony went to "The Old Country" they would all get together. Whenever the friends came to visit Gwen she would bring them down to the hall on a Saturday night and we would all hear the stories of their training years.

For the last 20 years Gwen and I had a lot of laughs while in the kitchen at the hall getting ready for one of the many functions we organized as part of the social committee. We would be so tired at the end of the night but Gwen would brush it off and say "if everyone had a good time it was worth it". Once rested, she would be busy shopping for the church service every month. She really did enjoy it and would get to the hall with Tony at 8am on Sunday morning (sometimes after a very late Saturday night) so that everything would be ready in time.

The W.A. meetings every month were very special to Gwen, she and the other ladies would look forward to the lunch time chatter and catching up on all the news before getting down to the business of the meeting. During her last few weeks in hospital the members of the Saturday night group and some members of the WA visited Gwen daily and kept Tony company with stories about happier times we had together. Gwen was a very special lady who taught me many things and gave so much of herself. She will be missed so very much but we will always remember her laughter on Saturday nights and listen for her call of "TONY"!!!!.

Tony would like to thank all of you for the many sympathy cards and the words of comfort he has received, they are helping him through this very sad time.

GLADYS EVANS

Gladys passed away very suddenly on July 24th after suffering a stroke. She had been a faithful member of the WA for many years, she would always volunteer when there were crafts to be made. She enjoyed polishing the silver in the trophy case ready for the banquet. She loved the company and all the fun we had on a Saturday night at the hall. She especially loved to come and help decorate the hall at Christmas time, it was an all day event with lots of laughter, the occasional argument or sometimes fish and chips and she enjoyed every minute of it. Before moving to Surrey, Gladys was a regular at the general meetings and several times billeted members of a visiting choir. She thought she was in heaven when the visiting choir had a social night at the hall and the singing began.

Gladys was very proud of her Welsh heritage and was always popping over to the Rhymney Valley to visit friends and relatives. Just days before she passed away she had made arrangements for four of her friends to come over and visit her and was busy planning the itinerary. Just like Gwen she loved to go to the casino and would spend hours just playing the nickel machines. All your friends will miss you Aunty Glad.

Thanks to Jeff and Gaynor Owen for sharing these memories with us. (Editor)

DAVID RHYS MASON

David was born on his father's farm at Glyncoirwg near Aberystwyth in Wales. He immigrated to Canada in 1953 where he taught high school mathematics in Ashcroft. He later obtained his B.C. Land Surveying Card and combined the disciplines of teaching and surveying to become the Head of the Surveying Department at B.C.I.T. when it opened in 1964.

Although we had seen little of David at the Cambrian Hall in recent years, he made several significant contributions to the Society. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones recalls that he 'surveyed the Hall so that we could proceed to get an "A" Lounge Liquor Licence. He always attended on Saturday nights to join in the communal singing as well as other functions in the Hall.' Neville Thomas recalls his days as Treasurer and his role in initiating the Golf Tournament in 1984 (twice a year in those days!). In 1985 the Welsh Society staged a memorable production of 'Under Milk Wood'. To this day those present will recall his superb performance in the role of Captain Cat.

DR. TECWYN VAUGHAN JONES

On May 12th we lost one of our most faithful members when Dr. Tecwyn Vaughan Jones died in Ladner, B.C. at the age of 77.

Tecwyn had been a family doctor in Ladner for 35 years until his retirement in 1992. Many will remember him as a caring physician and a respected member of their community. Others will have known and respected him for his myriad interests, at many of which he excelled. One of his prime interests was sailing. He was a member of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club for many years and raced in the dragon class. He was said to be a fierce competitor and won prizes in various parts of the world as well as a silver medal in the Canada Games. Among his other passions were harness racing, flying model airplanes and bird watching. After his retirement Tecwyn acquired even more interests, including growing unusual primulas, propagating old roses, and dog breeding and showing.

Tecwyn was born in Brymbo, near Wrexham, North Wales. He obtained

a degree in electrical engineering from Cambridge University but later decided on a medical career. He obtained his medical degree from London's Royal Free Hospital. After interning at a New York hospital he moved to Vancouver's Children's Hospital. He opened his practice in Ladner in 1957. Tec's Welsh background also provided him with a love of music. He will be remembered in Delta as an early member of the Community Band, now the Delta Concert Band, formed in 1964. He mastered the French Horn and won prizes in several competitions.

After his retirement Tec made several visits back to Wales to research his family's genealogy. At the same time he sought to regain his ability to speak fluent Welsh through regular attendance at the Welsh Speaking evening. We will miss Tecwyn at the Cambrian Hall. In the words of Edgar Dunning, who gave the eulogy at his funeral service, 'Tecwyn was a remarkable man. Unusual is another description, perhaps extraordinary, that could be used to describe him.'

De wis Ddyn Taliesin

Taliesin a ddywaid mai dewisaf gwr oedd fel hyn:

Gwr a fyddo yn athro yn ei dy,
yn oen yn ei ystafell,
yn fardd ar ei fwrdd,
yn ddoeth yn ei ddadl,
yn walch ar yr heol,
yn llew yn y drin,
ac yn farch yn ei wely.

Taliesin's Ideal Man

According to Taliesin, the ideal man should possess these qualities:

A man should be a teacher in his house,
a lamb in his chamber,
a poet at his table,
be wise in his debate,
a hawk on the road,
a lion in battle,
and a stallion in his bed.

As I was leafing through an old Welsh collection of literary works, I came across this list of choice male characteristics attributed to Taliesin. I have attempted an English translation. I have not found a corresponding list of female characteristics, but then much of poetry has been devoted to that topic. It is good to know that one of Wales' earliest poets thought the subject worthy of his consideration.

D.L.I.W.

CAMBRIAN CIRCLE SINGERS

The Cambrian Singers, with our usual busy Spring season, had a slightly longer one this year due to recording our first CD at a music studio on July 7th. While making CDs may be old hat for some choirs it was a totally new experience for us. It was a very interesting evening and, due to our conscientious work prior to the recording, didn't take as long to complete as the studio had expected. An additional bonus was the appearance of Dal Richards who had come down to hear us. We now have a photograph of the choir with Dal Richards. Dal, who is 86, could be considered Mr. Music of Vancouver.

We lost two members during the Spring season, Lara Evans moved to Wales and Maureen Grecht moved to Vancouver Island. We are very glad for the addition of Margaret Airey who joined us in May and will be our assistant accompanist. Coleen Thomas will still be on leave of

absence for one more year as she completes her university fine arts course. She did join us at Christmas and for the recording. In fact she was able to use the CD experience towards her course.

On August 8th, the choir will have met at my house for our annual Summer pot luck gathering. We hope to have a few of our retired members present as well.

The Fall season will start on Friday, September 10th. at 7:30 p.m. As per usual we would welcome new or old members. We already have two bookings for early Fall but we have to be careful not to overbook since Christmas music has to be learnt. I expect we will be back at Van Duesen Gardens and Burnaby Village Museum at some time over the Christmas season.

Nerys Haqq

CELTIC AT THE CAMBRIAN TO FEATURE POPULAR BAND BLACKTHORN

The Vancouver Welsh Society will present an evening of Celtic music at the Cambrian Hall on September 11. The 'Celtic at the Cambrian' event is a fundraiser for repairs to the Hall's roof and will feature the popular Vancouver folk group Blackthorn.

Blackthorn has built a reputation in Western Canada and parts of the U. S. for its lively and up-tempo rendering of Celtic songs and for its beautiful harmonies. Anyone who experiences a Blackthorn concert is invariably caught up in the toe-tapping jigs, funky reels and haunting ballads that are the group's specialty. Most recently the band has performed in folk festivals in Seattle and St. Louis, Mo., in Maillardville at the Festival du Bois, and at Vancouver Canada Day celebrations. Band member Michael Viens says about the Celtic at the Cambrian evening: "For Blackthorn it's an opportunity to share our love of Celtic music in a wonderful hall for a good cause and provides impetus for us to expand our Welsh repertoire."

Also appearing at the 'Celtic will be the Tartan Pride Highland Dance Team, a group of high level dancers from the Joan Murray School of

Dance. This experienced competitive group dances to modern and traditional music as well as both Irish and Scottish steps. The group recently performed at the Highland Games in Monterey, California.

Celtic music has become increasingly popular in recent years, especially with the younger generation. Welsh Society members are urged to encourage family members and young friends and acquaintances to come and enjoy this evening of foot-stomping Celtic music. Refreshments will be available to Welsh Society members and guests at the Red Dragon lounge in the lower hall of the Cambrian Hall. A good attendance will not only bring in more funds for the roof repair campaign but will also stimulate plans for future evenings of entertainment at the Hall.

Tickets for the evening cost \$10. Please reserve early to avoid disappointment since numbers are limited and sales are already brisk. Tickets and further information can be obtained by phoning 604-294-4332 or Cambrian@blackthornband.com. Blackthorn also has an excellent website at www.blackthornband.com.

WELL-KNOWN MUSICIAN TO CONDUCT AT NOVEMBER GYMANFA

Dr. Eifion Thomas, the Music Director of Cor Meibion Llanelli, will be the conductor at the Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday, November 7th as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations of the Cambrian Hall. Dr. Thomas is well known to Welsh Societies in North America, since he has conducted the Annual North American Gymanfa Ganu several times: the Vancouver Gymanfa in 1980, in Victoria in 1990, Belleview in 1994 and San Jose in 2001. Under his baton Cor Meibion Llanelli has won the Chief Male Voice Choir Competition at the National Eisteddfod of Wales five times. He has also conducted the London Welsh Festival of 1000 Male Voices at the Royal Albert Hall.

Eifion Thomas has also performed as a tenor soloist with many choirs and he has agreed to be a soloist at the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Grand Concert on Saturday evening, November

6th. The Grand Concert, to be held at St. Patrick's Church, 125 East 12th Ave. promises to be the highlight of the weekend. The organizers are very pleased that such a fine and popular musician has agreed to participate in the weekend's events. His reputation will undoubtedly attract a wider audience for the festivities.

Welsh Society member Gren Thomas has once again generously agreed to sponsor part of these activities. Diolch yn fawr unwaith eto, Gren.

In addition to the Saturday Concert and the Gymanfa there will also be a Noson Lawen on Friday night, November 5th and a Chapel Service at 11.am on Sunday. The organizers are also planning several activities at the Cambrian Hall for Saturday, November 6th. More information on the weekend celebrations will appear in the next newsletter.

September 2004

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7.30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	2	3	4 Red Dragon 8.30 pm
5	6	7	8 7.30 p.m. General Meeting	9	10 Cambrian Circle Singers	11 Celtic at the Cambrian
12	13	14	15 Cambrian Circle Singers	16 Welsh Folk Dancers	17	18 Red Dragon 8.30 pm
19 11.00 am Church Service & Tea	20	21	22 Cambrian Circle Singers	23 Welsh Folk Dancers	24	25 Red Dragon 8.30 p.m.
26	27	28	29 Cambrian Circle Singers	30 Welsh Folk Dancers		

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society
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