

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Aledi
2005

September
2005

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter – Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



**Delyth Cann, Gareth Prytherch a John Cann
Cymry Canada yn yr Eisteddfod**

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VANCOUVER

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

Alcwyn Rogers has taken on the important task of administering our website and has already made some changes. We hope to use the Events section both to give advance notice of forthcoming events and to record more fully perhaps with photographs ones that have occurred. The About section will we hope provide more of a historical record of the society and its different groups and activities. Alcwyn will be happy to receive any assistance you can offer in making this as complete as possible. You will also notice a link to Lynne Fox's website entitled Welsh Culture which contains all sorts of interesting information. Finally the Newsletter will appear in colour on the site and can be downloaded.

David Llewelyn Williams

Forthcoming Events

September 7th, Executive Meeting 7.30 pm
September 11th, Church Service 11.00 am
September 14th, General Meeting 7.30 pm
September 19th, Welsh Speaking Group

Mondays: Walking Group 10 am
Thursdays: Welsh Folk Dancers
Fridays: Cambrian Circle Singers
Saturdays: Red Dragon opens 8.30 pm

I'm looking for the descendants of my grand mother's brother Robert Thomas, son of Thomas Thomas of Dyserth, Flintshire who arrived in Greenwood, B.C. about 1905. He was last heard of in Spokane in 1940 but had connections with Vancouver and competed in eisteddfods. I have some early photos, is there a possible Thomas connection with your society? Diolch.
Paul Thomas Richards, Colwyn Bay
sbach@tiscali.co.uk

Dear Fellow Members,

July 28, 2005

I want to try to give my perspective, as a member of the Executive, on the financial situation of the Welsh Society of Vancouver and expand the information you may have seen on the gaming fund grants. Financially, 2004 was a good year for the Society and this facilitated some successful events. The Society received \$15,000 from the provincial gaming – an Access Grant to help some identified programs. In addition, many donations from members and friends of the Society were received. These donations were made towards the fund to fix the leaky roof. On behalf of all members, the Executive has appreciated all this generosity. In 2004 and into 2005, all the individual sections of the Society have transferred some money to the main body of the Society. Again, we appreciated the cooperation of the members of these sections. In late 2004 the Society applied for a capital grant from gaming to assist with the roof and some other projects – for total expenditures of \$51,000 – applying for 50% of the total - that is \$25,500. (At that time, we had estimates that the roof was going to cost about \$27,000.) In early 2005, the Society received \$20,000 from gaming towards our capital projects. This was great! The Society has to match this and spend a total of \$40,000 on our capital projects.

The roof has been completed, apart from one small item, but the big demand for building in Vancouver has resulted in a very significant increase in the cost - to around \$35,000. The Executive wants to carry out more work at the Cambrian Hall, both upstairs and the Red Dragon, by making some improvements and carry out some other necessary maintenance. The Executive is going to request some volunteer time for painting etc – starting in late August. In the application for grant money, it was stated that volunteers would carry out some of the work. The Executive hopes that you will give the Society some of your talents and time to complete some of this work.

One of the projects, which were listed in the capital application, was to turn the mezzanine of the upper hall into a Welsh Information Resource and Library Center. This would be a positive way to use this space. Over the years, books have been donated to the Society. We have some great people who are prepared to set this up once the some modifications have been completed. The concept is for the area to be enclosed, with a few internal windows. Access would be for members and persons seeking information about Wales, Welsh culture and use of the books in the library. It would be unfortunate to delay this project, but the Executive is going to have to set some priorities with so much money having been required for the roof. Repair. **But we do have a great roof!** The Executive has left the roof fund open for donations and would welcome donors for the continuing projects.

Apart from members' dues and rental income for the upper hall, the Welsh Society has little income. In recent years, the bar has not been a generator of any significant cash flow. In fact, before 2004, the Welsh Society was generating significant cash losses. If the Society had not received the gaming funds and donations in 2004, a cash flow forecast carried out in early 2004 estimated the Society could have run out of cash during 2006. Thankfully, the situation has improved. The Society was not able to apply for a gaming Access grant in 2005, but should qualify to apply in 2006. The Society is reaching out to previous members and people with some Welsh connection to join the Society. The Social Events Committee has ideas and is receptive of other people's thoughts, ideas and support. The Society needs events to provide different events to bring people together. The membership of the Welsh Society is small at about 150 or so, and the cooperation of all members is essential to its long-term existence. .

Barrie Hancock

Araith Y Faenol

(sef araith John Pritchard fel Arweinydd y Cymry Tramor yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol)

Barchus Lywydd ac annwyl gyd Eisteddfodwyr:

'Rydwyf wedi deisyfu cael sefyll ar lwyfan yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol fel hyn er pan oeddwn yn blentyn. Deallais i, a phawb arall, yn gynnwys na chyrraeddwn fel canwr, nac fel adroddwr, nac yn sicr fel bardd!! Ond dyma'r nod wedi ei gyrraedd heddiw fel Arweinydd y Cymry Tramor-ac yn gwireddu geiriau Eifion Wyn, ei bod yn" werth troi'n alltud ambell dro."

Hoffwn ddiolch o galon i Undeb Cymru a'r Byd a Phwyllgor yr Eisteddfod am yr anrhydedd unigryw hwn i mi yn bersonol. Diolch iddynt hefyd, ar ran fy nghyd-Gymry Tramor am eu croeso tywysogaidd a'u caredigrwydd twym-galon i ni yn Y Faenol eleni. Rydym yn cynrychioli ardaloedd drwy Gymru ben-baladr ac yn dod o dros ugain o wledydd led-led y byd. Hoffwn yn fawr hefyd dalu teyrnged arbenig i'r gwr a sefydlodd Cymru a'r Byd ac a fu'n arweinydd cadarn am gymaint o flynyddoedd. Fel Cymry Tramor, mae ein dyled i T. Elwyn Griffiths yn ddi-fesur. Amhosibl yw dirnad pa mor bwysig yw Undeb Cymru a'r Byd a'r Enfys i ni Gymru oddicartref.

Ac yn awr wrth adrodd ychydig o eiriau personol, gwn fy mod yn adlewyrchu teimladau ac emosiynau fy nghymrodyr sydd yma ar y llwyfan. Teimlaf yn gartrefol iawn yn yr ardal hon-wedi fy ngeni ym Mangor: wedi cael fy ngholeg i lawr y ffordd yma yn Y Neuadd Fenai: ac wedi fy magu yn nalgylch yr Eisteddfod mewn dyffryn nid anenwog-yn Nhalysarn, Dyffryn Nantlle. Ac o mor falch ydwyf o ardal fy mebyd. Prin fod ardal arall yng Nghymru wedi deor ar gymaint o gewri llenyddol a diwylliannol na'm dyffryn i. Maen't yn ddi-ri, o R. W. Parry a Gwilym R. Jones yn y gorffennol i Bryn Terfel a Robert Arwyn heddiw.

Ond codi fy mhac a wnes, a sefydlu yn y diwedd yn Vancouver, Canada-perl y Tawelfor. Ac yno y cefais afael ar ferch lygatgraff, walltddu ac iaith y nefoedd ar ei min. Roedd eto'n werth troi'n alltud i gyfarfod Llinos o Aberangell, Dyffryn Dyfi. Dros y blynyddoedd gwnaethom ymdrech lew i hyrwyddo'r Gymru fach sydd gennym yn Vancouver-Y Gymdeithas Gymraeg a Neuadd y Cambria. Mae na bump o'n haelodau yma heddiw ac yn eu mysg fy nghyfaill annwyl Gareth Prydderch sydd dros ei bedwar ugain oed.. Cawsom y fraint o groesawu dwsinau o Gymry i'n cartref dros y blynyddoedd a channoedd i'r Gymdeithas.

'Rydym wedi gallu dod gartref i'r Eisteddfod yn rheolaidd yn ystod ein hoes, ac o mor fendigedig yw gallu cadw'r cadwynau cysylltiol ynghlwm. Ar ran y Cymry Tramor, diolch unwaith eto o waelod calon i chwi gyfeillion annwyl Cymru a'r Byd am eich croeso di-hafal: i bwyllgor yr Eisteddfod am gadw'r traddodiad seremonïol hwn yn fyw: a chwithau gyd-Gymru ac Eisteddfodwyr oll.

Ac fel y dywed fy arwr fardd, Robat Williams Parry o Dalysarn-Bob, Rhiwafon"

"Digymar yw fy mro drwy'r cread crwn,
ac ni fu dwthwn fel y dwthwn hwn"

Diolch, bendith ar yr Eisteddfod a thangnefedd.

This is the text of John's speech as Leader of the Overseas Welsh at the National Eisteddfod at Y Faenol this year. Some of us had the privilege of watching John 'live' on BBC Wales Television through the internet which also allowed us to see the Canadian contingent present. We should be very proud that a member of our society has been accorded this signal honour. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones has pointed out that exactly 50 years ago another prominent member of our society, Mrs Angharad Lloyd Roberts, was Leader of "Y Cymry ar Wasgar" (The Welsh Diaspora as it was known earlier) at the National Eisteddfod in Pwllheli in 1955. In 1982, Gwenfyl Jones had the honour at the Eisteddfod in Swansea which is where it will be held again next year.

I have included John's speech for the record and for those who can understand at least some of the Welsh. But let me try to provide a rough summary in English.

John thanks Wales International and the Eisteddfod Committee for according him this unique honour. The importance of Wales International and Yr Enfys to the Welsh away from home cannot be overestimated. It was a childhood dream to stand on the Eisteddfod stage but he soon realized he wouldn't make it as a soloist, or through recitation, and certainly not as a bard, so he finds truth in Eifion Wyn's words that it is worth it occasionally to go into exile. He repeats this idea later when he talks of moving to Vancouver – the pearl of the Pacific-- and of therefore finding Llinos.

John also stresses the importance of the Welsh Society and the Cambrian Hall in keeping alive the small part of Wales we have in Vancouver and the many Welsh visitors we have welcomed over the years. He notes that five of our members are present at the ceremony. He thanks the Eisteddfod on behalf of the Overseas Welsh for keeping alive its traditions which thereby help maintain secure connecting bonds with the homeland. The Overseas Welsh connect with communities across the whole of Wales and come from over twenty countries. He thanks the Eisteddfod for their peerless welcome

He feels very much at home in the region of the Eisteddfod, having been born in Bangor and having received his college education there. He believes there are few regions in Wales that have produced as many literary and cultural giants as his particular region; among them R. Williams Parry and Gwilym R. Jones in the past and Bryn Terfel and Robert Arwyn today. His final quote is from his and my favourite poet – 'Incomparable is my vale throughout the whole (round) creation, there will be no time like this time.'

He concludes "Thank you, blessings on the Eisteddfod and peace."

Professor Sir Rees Davies

Robert Rees Davies was born near Llandderfel in 1938 to a Welsh-speaking family and grew up on a hill farm near Cynwyd, Meirioneth, overlooking the River Dee. His parents quickly recognized his intelligence and encouraged him in his early love of reading, though he must have been seven or eight before he learned English. Educated in Welsh at Cynwyd School and then at the County School in Bala he went on to University College London and finally took his doctorate on the later medieval period at Oxford. He occupied the chair of history at Aberystwyth (1976-95) before taking the Chichele chair of medieval history at Oxford (1995-2004). From 1967 he served on the Ancient Monuments Board for Wales; as its Chairman from 1995 to 2005. He served as President of the Royal Historical Society (1992-96) and when he died he was President of the Honourable Society of Cymrodorion. The obituary in the Guardian credited him through his first book, *Lordship and Society in the March of Wales* (1978) with changing the way scholars thought about the history of Wales and medieval Britain. Many others followed: *Wales: The Age of Conquest, 1063 -1415* became the definitive work on its subject; *The Revolt of Owain Glyn Dwr* (1995) won one of the several awards he received; in 2002 he published a moving shorter book in Welsh on Glyn Dwr. The Guardian obituary concludes: 'A teacher of brilliance and generosity, a hard worker for the public good, both Welsh and British, he won many honours and held some of the grandest positions in the British academic hierarchy. But he wore his distinction lightly, and he never lost the perspectives that he had gained from having begun amid the hardships of a farming community, deep in what the age he studied knew as "pure Wales".' Rees Davies died of cancer in May at the age of 66.

(Thanks to Nerys Haqq for bringing his obituary to my attention.)

Cambrian Circle Singers

The Cambrian Circle Singers continue to thrive and improve as we enter our 26th year. This past spring proved to be another busy time with performances at 11 locations from Vancouver to White Rock. We ended the season with our annual potluck at Nerys' house in July.

We were pleased to welcome Belinda Llewellyn in January. Belinda, an obviously accomplished seamstress, made herself a gown similar to ones now being made in Wales. This Fall we will welcome back Coleen Thomas who, except for joining us at Christmas, has been off on a study leave for the past two years. More interest for the choir has been added by Dawn Williams who now is sufficiently proficient on the flute to add a flute solo to our program.

We are looking forward to a busy Fall/Christmas season which was already filled by the end of July. We spent time on new music, both Christmas and regular, in June plus refreshed Christmas numbers so that we would be able to accept a few more engagements this coming season.

Nerys Haqq

Fall Program 2005

- Sept 9/16 Friday Rehearsal 7.30 pm
- Sept 23 Friday Fraserview Care Home
7.00 pm 9580 Williams Road, Richmond
- Sept 30 Friday Rehearsal 7.30 pm
- October 7 Friday Augustine House 7.30 pm
3820 Arthur Drive, Ladner
- Oct 14 Friday Crescent Gardens 7.00 pm
1222 King George Hwy, White Rock.

Oct 21/28 Friday Rehearsal 7.30 pm

Nov 1 Tuesday Chalmers Lodge
7.30 pm 1450 W 12th Vancouver

Nov 11 Friday Rehearsal 7.30 pm

Nov 17 Thursday Sunnyside Manor
7.00 pm 15340 17th Ave. White Rock

Nov 24 Thursday Blenheim Lodge
6.30 pm 3163 Blenheim St @ 16th

Dec 2 Friday Augustine House 7.30 pm
3820 Arthur Drive, Ladner

Dec 3 Saturday Minoru Residence 2.30 pm
Minoru Blvd (across from The Bay)

Dec 9 Friday St. Edward's Church
7.30 pm St. Edward's Drive/Bird Road
(south of Bridgeport Road)

December 16 Friday
Van Duesen Gardens 7.30 pm

Editor's Note: Diligent readers of the Newsletter will recall an article five years ago by the then editor, Mer Montador, entitled 'The Welsh Costume' which chronicles the Fashion Show put on by the fledgling Cambrian Circle as the opening event at the 1980 National Gymanfa Ganu at the Hotel Vancouver on August 28. The Circle 'intended to build up a repertoire of Welsh songs and go out to senior citizen homes around the province, wearing these costumes' (pictures were included in the article). This they have done with distinction and we congratulate the Cambrian Circle Singers on their Silver Anniversary.

Cofio'r Ferch o Ddolwar Fach

August 12th was the 200th Anniversary of the burial of the famous Welsh hymnist, Ann Griffiths. To mark the occasion several events were held over the weekend in the region of her youth, Llanfyllin in Powys. Four memorial bronzes were unveiled at significant locations on the seven mile long Llwybr Ann Griffiths to commemorate the woman who was responsible for several major Welsh hymns. (e.g. 'Dyma babell y cyfarfod ...'; 'O! Am gael ffydd i edrych ...' and 'Wele'n sefyll rhwng y myrtwydd ...'). The bronzes are in the form of an open Bible containing her history, details of the journey and the significance of the particular spot in both Welsh and English. Ann Griffiths was born in the farmhouse, Dolwar Fach, in Llanfihangel-yng-Ngwynfa, by Llanfyllin and she died soon after childbirth in 1805, when she was 29 years old. 70 of her hymns have survived and she is recognized as the most important woman in the history of Welsh literature prior to the 20th century. More information can be obtained from the Ann Griffiths website (www.anngriffiths.cf.ac.uk) maintained by Dr. E. Wyn James of Cardiff University.

Gwyl y Glaniad July 23, 2005

A special ceremony this year was held as part of the celebrations commemorating the arrival of the Welsh settlers in Patagonia. A wreath of flowers was placed on the grave of Michael D. Jones, acknowledged as the 'father' of the Welsh Colony in Patagonia. The wreath was placed on the grave in the cemetery of Yr Hen Gapel (The Old Chapel), Llanuwchllyn, by Elan Jones, a great granddaughter of one of the early settlers, Edwyn Roberts. The celebration

this year had a special significance since it is 140 years since the first company of Welsh landed in Patagonia in 1865. Good wishes were received from Patagonia in Welsh from Welsh Societies in Trelew, Esquel, Gaiman, and the Andes as well as Gorsedd Y Wladfa and Eisteddfod Y Wladfa (The Colony). The ceremony closed with a hymn by Nantlais which praised the ties that exist between Wales and Patagonia.

(More details at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cymru/tramor/straeon/pat-glaniad-05.shtml>).

Children's Welsh Christmas Party

Gaynor Evans and Nerys Haqq are going to try to step into Gaynor Owen's competent shoes this year and attempt to hold a gathering for the young people again. We hope to extend it somewhat so as to include the older young people since we feel it is important to try to keep the older group involved even if only once a year. Father Christmas will still bring gifts for the younger ones but we will have slightly different agendas for each age group. The party will take place on **Sunday, December 11, 2005 at 2:00 pm.**

Request to membership:

1. Please submit names and ages of children and grandchildren ASAP to either Gaynor or Nerys.
2. Not knowing our finances, consider a donation such as a box of Mandarin Oranges or any item fit for a party.
3. Buy raffle tickets for the 16" Father Christmas with all monies going towards the party. (Picture on website)

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fgevans@telus.net (604-271-3134)

Vancouver Welsh Society Annual Golf Tournament

This year's tournament took place once again at Poppy Estate Golf Course on Saturday July 16th. The day started under cloudy skies but soon changed to pleasant sunny weather, which made the activities at the 19th hole even more enjoyable. Our numbers were somewhat reduced this year as a consequence of the Eisteddfod but nevertheless 22 participants kept the tradition alive. We are particularly grateful to Tecwyn Roberts who, despite being unable to play, turned up to ensure all ran smoothly and acted as Master of Ceremonies at the dinner. We are also grateful to Gwyn Evans for working with Tecwyn to arrange the event.

In the needle match, the North Wales team defeated the South Wales team to retain the **Challenge Shield**.

The other winners were:

Men's Low Gross: Nigel Williams (64)
Men's Low Net: Rob Barclay (63)
Ladies' Low Gross: Irene Evans (88)
Ladies' Low Net: Veronica Gilder (67)
K.P. 12th Hole: David Young
Owen Phillips Trophy for Fewest Putts: Nigel Williams
Larry Palmatier Trophy for Men's Longest Drive:
David Llewelyn Williams

The photo below taken by Tecwyn Roberts shows the South Wales team of Gwyn Evans, Rob Barclay, Dave Gilder and Bob Marsh and the North Wales team of David Williams, Nigel Williams, Gwilym Evans and John Williams in a convivial mood after the dinner.

