Pat Morris at the Canadian Multicultural Day Fair held at Vancouver Central Library on 24 June

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

From the Editor:

As the long hot summer draws to a close and the evenings shorten with the approach of autumn, the social committee welcomes Society members and their friends to a host of great fall/winter events and activities! These include a pub night, a noson lawen, the Anniversary Dinner, the Welsh Weekend, a twmpath/ceilidh, the children’s Christmas party and two performances of A Child’s Christmas in Wales. See the “Forthcoming Events” section for dates and details and then browse the photo gallery of recent events and festivities to see what members have been up to since the last newsletter was sent out.

Also included in this issue is a fascinating article on the Welsh in British Columbia by Eifion Williams.

Sadly, several members have passed away this summer, including long-standing and well-loved member, Peter Byrne. An obituary for Peter is included at the end of the newsletter.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Maureen Grecht’s son, David Bosek, in June and we send our sincere condolences to Maureen and her family.

Don’t forget to register for the Welsh Genealogy Group’s special meeting on 18 October, when guest speaker Diane Rogers will give a talk on DNA. See the red box in the “Forthcoming Events” section for details.

Enjoy the articles, photographs, reports and news items in this edition, but – most important – come out and join us at the many Society events that celebrate and keep alive Welsh life, language and culture in Vancouver!

Ruth Baldwin
**Forthcoming Events**

*Note: Please consult the Society Website for a detailed and frequently updated list of forthcoming and regular events.*

**Welsh Lessons**

The autumn schedule can be found on the “Welsh Classes” page, [http://www.welshsociety.com/lab5/welsh-classes-at-the-cambrian-hall/](http://www.welshsociety.com/lab5/welsh-classes-at-the-cambrian-hall/)

**Bilingual Service**

**Sunday 10 September** at 11.00 am. This will be followed by a tê bach (light refreshments).

**Sunday 17 December** at 11:00 pm. Please note that, just for this month, the bilingual service will take place on the *Third* Sunday of the month rather than the second.

**Executive Meeting**

**Monday 11 September** at 7:30 pm.

**Cambrian Bookworms**

**Wednesday 13 September** at noon. The book this month is *Medicine Walk* by Richard Wagamese.

**Welsh Speaking Group**

**Monday 18 September** at 10:30 am. Siarad Cymraeg y bore’ma.

**General Meeting**

**Monday 18 September** at 7:30 pm.

**Genealogy Group**

The Welsh Genealogy Group meets on the *third Wednesday of each month* from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Red Dragon. The first fall meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20 September**.

**WELSH GENEALOGY GROUP**

**SPECIAL NOTICE!**

On Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 10:30 am in the Red Dragon, Cambrian Hall, 215, E. 17th Avenue, Vancouver (entrance at the rear of the building via the lane), the Genealogy Group will host a special guest speaker, Diane Rogers, who will give a talk on the subject of DNA. All are welcome! If you plan to attend, please email Carole Smythe at csmythe@telus.net. Diane will be providing handouts, so organizers need to know the number of attendees. If you wish to, bring your laptop.

The schedule for upcoming Genealogy Group meetings in 2017 is:
- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 20

**Work Party**

**Monday 25 September** from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. A delicious lunch will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Pub Night**

**Friday 29 September.** Theme: “Fall into Fall.” Doors open at 7:00 pm. and programme begins at 8:00 pm. There will be a performance by Tim Readman and a quiz.
**Anniversary Dinner**

**Saturday 14 October** at 7:00 pm.
Catered by Jordan’s International Food Designs.  *Details to follow.*

**Ceilidh/Twmpath/Barn Dance**

**Friday 20 October** from 7:30 to 10:30 pm.  *Please see the printable poster on page 16 for details.*

**Welsh Weekend**

**Friday 3 November.** Noson Lawen (an evening of entertainment) featuring the music trio, Three Pound Note, from Seattle, and others. Finger food will be served and there will be a cover charge (yet to be determined). This event is still in the planning stages and further details will be follow.

**Saturday 4 November.** Details are yet to be decided, but a film, poetry reading and Celtic talk are under discussion.

**Sunday 5 November** at 2:00 pm.  
**Gymanfa Ganu.** Conductor, accompanist and soloist to be determined.  

*The Welsh Weekend is still in its planning stages. Further details are forthcoming. Please see the events section of the website for updates.*

**Quiz Night**

**Friday 24 November.**  *This event is in its planning stages. Further details will follow.*

**Mulled Wine and Carols**

**Saturday 2 December.**  *Details to follow.*

**Children’s Christmas Party**

**Sunday 10 December** at 2:00 pm.
Organized by Gaynor Evans and her “elves.”  *Details to follow.*

**A Child’s Christmas in Wales**

**Sunday 10 and Monday 11 December.**

Doors open at 7:00 pm. Performance at 8:00 pm. The Society is very pleased to announce the return of this popular Christmas event led by Russell Roberts featuring original music and your favourite carols.

*Details and ticket sales information to follow.*

**Christmas Dinner**

**Saturday 16 December** at 7:00 pm.  
*Details to follow.*

**Annual General Meeting**

Subject to approval by the executive, the AGM has been moved to **Monday 18 December at 7:30 pm.** Please put the date in your calendar!

**Typical Monthly Events**

Everyone is invited to join us at these events but please note there may be changes from time to time, so it’s best to check the monthly page on the website before attending. For further information please contact mail@welshsociety.com.
Sundays: 2nd Sunday of the month: Bilingual Church Service. The exception is in November when the Service is on the Sunday of the Welsh weekend.

Mondays: 1st Monday of the month for Board Members only: Executive Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Mondays: 3rd Monday of the month: Welsh speaking group meets at 10:30 am.

Mondays: 4th Monday of the month: Volunteer working party: 10:00 am till 3:00 pm.

Mondays: Monday following the executive meeting: General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm in February, April, June, September and November. The Annual General Meeting is held on the 2nd Monday in December at 7:30 pm.

Wednesdays: 2nd Wednesday of the month: The Book Club meets at 12:00 noon

Wednesdays: 3rd Wednesday of the month: Genealogy Group meets from 10:30 am till 12:30 pm.

Welsh Language lessons: The schedule varies and details are shown here.

Choirs

Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir

Saturday 16 September at 7:30 pm. The Orpheus is honoured to have been invited to participate with three other choirs in the third annual “Re-Sounding Ryerson” benefit concert at Dunbar-Ryerson United Church (45th Ave. and Yew St. in Vancouver). The church will be undergoing extensive renovations in the near future, and these concerts are designed to show support for the church as a vital hub for choral music in Vancouver. The other choirs are The Postmodern Camerata, Vancouver Chamber Choir and Vancouver Children’s Choir. Details regarding tickets will be available later.

The Orpheus Christmas Concert series:

- Friday, December 8th. at St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, 20955 Old Yale Road, Langley.
- Sunday, December 10th. at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 2350 148 Street, White Rock.
- Tuesday, December 12th. at Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver. We are hosting the St. Thomas Aquinas school choir.
- Saturday, December 16th. at West Point Grey United Church, 4595 8th Avenue West, Vancouver.

Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir

The VWMC has not yet published its fall and winter schedule. Please consult the choir’s website, vwmc.ca, for contact information.
Photo Gallery of Recent Society Events

Last Night of the Proms at the Vancouver Orpheum
Several members attended this annual event, modelled on the finale to the “Proms” held in London’s Royal Albert Hall. Jayne Boyer, president of The Royal Society of St. George in Vancouver, took the photograph. You can see everyone’s having a great time!

The Annual Spring Fair
The Spring Fair, held on Saturday 13 May, was a great success again this year and a lot of fun (and hard work!) for members who helped make the annual fund-raiser so successful.

The (third) Welsh Society Twmpath, held on Friday 19 May, drew a large number of keen dancers. Don’t miss the next one, to be held on Friday 20 October; it’s the most fun you’ll get for $10 anywhere!

Pub Night
Tim Readman entertained at the Welsh Society's Pub night on 16 June. If you missed his fine performance, you’ll get a second chance to hear him; he’s coming back to the Red Dragon on 29 September!
BC Highland Games
Pat Morris and Tim Darvell sent in these photos of the BC Highland Games, at which they represented the Society on the “Welsh table” on Saturday 17 June at Percy Perry Stadium in Coquitlam.

Canadian Multiculturalism Day Fair
Pat Morris organized the Vancouver Welsh Society table for this event held on Saturday 24 June at Vancouver Central Library. Jackie Jones Chapman, Heather Davies and Ruth Baldwin also attended. Here, Pat and Heather pose with visitor Ada Con, who was very interested to learn about Welsh culture.

Vancouver Welsh Society President Lynn Owens-Whalen has submitted the following photos sent to her by Janet Thomas. Lynn recounts the time, several years ago, when she and her husband Wilf went looking for Cardigan, New Brunswick, which is the site of the first Welsh settlement in Canada: “It is about 10 miles north of Fredericton. We were fortunate enough to come upon the chapel
the day of their annual Gymanfa Ganu and so were invited to join the NB Welsh Society for the afternoon. Janet has kept in touch ever since.”

“If you don’t know Kings Landing,” Lynn says, “it is a major tourist spot close to the Trans-Canada Highway. It is basically a restored and reconstructed pioneer settlement. So, the NB Welsh would have come in contact with tourists travelling from central Canada to the Maritimes.”

On July 23, Janet wrote, “We had a wonderful day yesterday talking about our Welsh heritage with the many visitors at Kings Landing [. . .] Visitors came from as far as Winnipeg to the west and Corner Brook to the east. We met a number of folks of Welsh descent who live within the province and encouraged them to participate in our events. The Welsh dragon was much admired by the children who visited while the love spoon attracted the interest of many, particularly the younger crowd.”

Garden Party
The theme, in keeping with Canada’s 150th anniversary, was “Red and White.” Lynn and Wilf generously hosted the garden party in their lovely garden on 19 August. Here Lynne and Wilf greet Paul Lievesley, who seems to have arrived bearing gifts!

2017 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Ynys Môn

2017 Anglesey National Eisteddfod
This year’s National Eisteddfod of Wales was held at Bodedern in Anglesey. Its theme was strongly influenced by the centenary of the First War Battles in 1917.

The Opening Concert was entitled “A Oes Heddwch,” the iconic question phrased by the Archdruid at Bardic Ceremonies, meaning “Is there Peace,” making it an emotional experience that set the stage for the whole Eisteddfod.

Many other events during the program attracted my attention, for example Jason Walford Davies talked on R S Thomas, M E Eldridge and Modern Art, Menna Elfyn discussed the two poems by Eluned Phillips that won the Crown, not to mention all the poetry challenges in Y Babell Len (the Literature Pavilion). But for me, the Chairing Ceremony was the high point. The photograph below shows the Archdruid and the Bardic Circle as he is about to call on the winning bard to stand. In 1917 the winning bard was Ellis Humphrey Evans whose Bardic Name was Hedd Wyn (Pure or Blessed Peace). But he had been killed on Pilkem Ridge several weeks before, so the Chair was shrouded and known as the Black Chair of Birkenhead. The chair on the extreme left is an exact 3D created replica of the Hedd Wyn’s chair. Furthermore, the title set in 1917 was “Yr Arwr” (the Hero), so this year the same title was set except it could also be feminine; Yr Arwr neu Arwres (Hero or Heroine). “The Snowdonia National Park Authority has been restoring Yr Ysgwrn, the home of Hedd Wyn, and with the work now complete, the Authority has donated this year’s Eisteddfod Chair. The Chair has a poignant link with the 1917 chair, having been partly crafted from ash and oak wood sawn from trees growing in the grounds of Yr Ysgwrn, trees which would have been growing there during Hedd
Wyn’s lifetime” This year’s winner was Osian Rhys Jones. For him, a pinnacle of success! For me, a very special centenary!

David Llewelyn

The following is an abridged version of an address by Eifion Williams on The Welsh in British Columbia, given at the Vancouver CSANA Conference, April 27, 2017.

THE WELSH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Like the other Celtic nations represented here today, the Welsh have had a presence on Canada’s West Coast since at the earliest 1807, when Canada’s greatest geographer, explorer and map maker, David Thompson, first crossed the Rockies and explored large areas of what is today British Columbia and the American Northwest. Thompson is invariably referred to by many historians as an English explorer, but he was in fact born Dafydd ap Thomas to Welsh parents in London.

Thompson is known mainly for his navigation of the entire length of the Columbia River from its source in the Canadian Rockies to the river’s mouth at Astoria, Oregon. But his achievements were far more numerous than that. His explorations, journals and maps are part of the heritage of this part of Western Canada.

Following in Thompson’s footsteps, many Welsh immigrants came to Western Canada in the nineteenth century in search of fortune and/or freedom. In mid-century, thousands of miners arrived to seek their fortunes in the gold mines on the Fraser River and later in the Cariboo region of central British Columbia.

In one famous episode in 1862, a group of Welshmen sailed from Liverpool bound for the Colony of British Columbia in the far northwest of North America. They were the Company of Welsh Adventurers, a group of 26 men from North Wales who agreed to join with self-styled ‘Captain’ John Evans of Tremadog in seeking their fortunes in the newly-discovered goldfields. The ‘Welshmen’, as they were called throughout their travels, were given free passage to the goldfields plus two years’ board in return for their labor. The project was financed by a wealthy English factory owner.

Evans was a stern god-fearing man whose puritan views on such matters as the evils of drink later proved ill-suited to the rough life in the gold camps.

The men set sail on The Rising Sun in August, 1862, on a voyage that took several months around Cape Horn and up the Pacific Coast of South and North America to Victoria on Vancouver Island. John Evans had travelled ahead of the men and registered a claim on Lightning Creek. Whatever hardships the men had experienced on the voyage must later have appeared relatively minor compared to the 500-mile trip the men had to make through the difficult terrain north from Victoria.

The hardships the men suffered were chronicled by the youngest member of the

group, Harry Jones, whose journal is preserved in the Public Archives of British Columbia. He describes how the Welshmen must have appeared rather strange to the thousands of men of various nationalities heading to the gold fields.

Harry Jones describes an episode on the Cariboo Trail one Sunday when an American came across the men sitting in a circle just off the trail, hands clasped together in prayer and speaking in what sounded to the American like a very strange tongue. True to his Welsh Methodist background, Captain Evans had insisted that the men neither worked nor travelled on Sundays.

Many of the miners wrote letters home, mostly in Welsh. The letters were occasionally published in local newspapers and many have been collected and translated by researchers and published in the National Library of Wales Journal. The letters and journals show that these men carried with them many of the traditions of their homeland. Their mostly Nonconformist religious beliefs dictated that they did no work on the Sabbath, adhered strictly to temperance, held regular religious services, organized Welsh events like the eisteddfod and the gymanfa ganu and whenever possible communicated in their native language. Many of these cultural traditions have been characteristic of Immigrant Welsh communities throughout their history and will still be familiar today to many Welsh Societies, including the Vancouver Welsh Society. Few if any of the Cariboo gold miners realized their dreams of untold wealth. The Cariboo diggings soon played out but in 1867 there were still eighty Welshmen in Barkerville, the instant gold-mining town that was the centre of the Cariboo Goldfields. They never forgot their heritage. They built the first Cambrian Hall in Barkerville, where they celebrated St. David’s Day and held eisteddfodau and weekly services in Welsh.

The Cariboo Gold Rush was over in a few short years but many of the Welsh miners stayed and played their part in building the new Province of British Columbia, which became part of Canada in 1871. John Evans and Harry Jones both became members of the Legislative Assembly in Victoria and many sent for wives or girlfriends from Wales and settled down to more mainstream lives.

What motivated these early Welsh immigrants to leave their homeland and seek new lives in North America is eloquently expressed by a man named Cuhelyn in one of his letters to the Merthyr Telegraph, May 31, 1862. In words that might serve as an epitaph to the millions of immigrants of all nationalities who seek to better themselves in a new land, he said:

‘As for me I would rather brave all the wrath of the elements of creation and dare all the torments of human invention to acquire an independence, than crawl like a worm through the mire of poverty.’

It is frequently true that the main beneficiaries of a gold rush are not the prospectors or miners but the entrepreneurs who build businesses that seek to profit from their efforts. And British Columbia has benefited from the business acumen of many Welsh immigrants. One of these was a man named David Spencer, who was born on a farm in the Vale of Glamorgan in Wales. In 1862 David decided to head for the Cariboo, hoping to make money in the goldfields.

When he arrived in Victoria he decided to stay. He opened a book store and later a department store which proved to be a very profitable business. Branches were later opened in other BC towns. David Spencer Ltd eventually expanded into other businesses like ranching and newspaper ownership.
Like Captain John Evans, Spencer was a devout Methodist, Sunday School teacher and a leading member of the Temperance Society. When he opened a branch of his store in Vancouver his son Chris Spencer was given responsibility for the store. Chris eventually became President of the Board of Trade and director of several other companies. He was also a founding member of the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Vancouver Symphony.

The University of British Columbia was a major beneficiary of Chris Spencer’s generosity. He was involved with the University from the beginning and before his death in 1953 established the Chris Spencer Foundation to provide financial assistance to enable worthy students to attend UBC and to assist organizations devoted to the service of young people. Chris Spencer was also one of the main financial contributors to the building of this Hall. The Cambrian Hall exists as a symbol of the generosity of men like Chris Spencer who valued their Welsh heritage while at the same time making an inestimable contribution to the prosperity and future growth of British Columbia.

The David Spencer Ltd department store chain was sold to Eaton’s in 1948. Chris Spencer’s name is inscribed on the cornerstone at the front of this building. Another name on the stone is that of Jonathan Rogers, who was born near Llangollen, Wales and grew up speaking only Welsh. In 1887 Rogers sailed for Montreal and crossed Canada on the first transcontinental train to Vancouver, then a small settlement of 2000 people. With great foresight he bought four lots in the middle of the forest, land now located in the heart of Vancouver. Within a few years Rogers became involved in all kinds of construction work during Vancouver’s first great real-estate boom. By 1914 he was a very wealthy man and a prominent public figure in Vancouver. Like Chris Spencer, Jonathan Rogers contributed financially to the building of the Cambrian Hall in 1928. One other name on the cornerstone is that of Thomas Edwards, who gave the Welsh Society the building materials for the Hall. Thomas Edwards was a miner’s son from Llanelli, Wales. Trained as a carpenter and joiner, he became a pioneer builder and prominent businessman in Vancouver and later a highly respected funeral director. He was also the first Leader of the Overseas Welsh at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, beginning an annual tradition of a ceremony welcoming Welsh exiles to the Eisteddfod.

The three men mentioned above belong on a roster of those successful Welsh immigrants who were long-time patrons of the Vancouver Welsh Society and contributors to the building of this Hall. Another Welsh immigrant, Joseph Jones, a dairy farmer, donated the land on which the Hall is built for a nominal sum of $1. He owned a dairy farm covering what are now some of the busiest streets in this area of Vancouver.

The actual building of the Hall was carried out largely by volunteer labour. It was officially opened in September, 1929 and committed future members of the then Cambrian Society, now the Welsh Society, to a sacred charge – the preservation of a unique asset for the future benefit of the Welsh in Vancouver.

As mentioned earlier, it is the only facility of its kind in North America. The Society holds an annual Anniversary Dinner here to remember those who were involved in the building of the Hall and all those past and present members who have helped preserve the building over the past 90 years through their voluntary efforts.

In the 1980’s the Vancouver City Council recognized the cultural significance of the Cambrian Hall by designating it a Heritage B building.

According to writer/historian Margaret Davidson in her anecdotal history of the
Welsh Society, the Welsh in Vancouver were organizing social events and sports teams in the early 1900s. The first St. David’s Day Banquet was held in the old Denman Auditorium in 1907.
As you’ve probably gathered already, most of the Welsh who emigrated to Canada in the 19th and most of the 20th centuries were members of Nonconformist denominations such as the Methodists or Baptists. They were determined to preserve their heritage through religious worship, music and hymn-singing, and above all through preserving the Welsh language. Most Welsh Societies, including the Vancouver Welsh Society, have consistently reflected these attributes.
The last few years have seen a gradual decline in the number of “chapel” Welsh as recent Welsh immigrants tended to have more worldly interests and the chapel culture is rapidly disappearing in Wales, as indeed are the chapels themselves. Yet ironically, there is greater interest in the language, both in Wales and among the overseas Welsh, including here in Vancouver. Today, people of Welsh ancestry tend to identify more with their roots and many play an important part in this Society.
The first recorded meeting of the Welsh in Vancouver was held in January 1908, the group calling itself the Cymrodorion Society. In 1911, the first Eisteddfod was held at the Vancouver Opera House, with competitions in choral music, solo voice, harp and elocution. An annual gymanfa ganu and monthly bilingual religious services were also initiated, events that have continued to this day.
The Cymrodorion Society became the Cambrian Society in 1924, and was renamed the Welsh Society in 1973. In the 1970’s, membership in the Society declined, mainly because of a slowdown in immigration from Wales. Membership was boosted in 1982 when the Welsh Society hosted the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu. In 2003, the Society sponsored the North American Festival of Wales, held in the Vancouver suburb of Richmond.
The Welsh Society played a significant role during the Vancouver Centennial in 1986, hosting a concert, church service and open house at the Cambrian Hall. The Society’s then secretary, Ann Roberts, served as coordinator of events during British Week at Vancouver’s Expo 86.
Over the years, the expense of maintaining the Hall spiraled and there were frequent fears that the Hall might have to be sold. It was saved by the voluntary efforts of members who carried out numerous repairs, including the building of a new stage. In the late 1970s the Lower Hall was renovated to provide a venue where members and guests could hold social gatherings. A bar licence was also acquired to help pay the cost of maintaining the Hall. The renovations made the building rentable, thus easing the financial burden on the Society. Despite the decline in membership in recent years, many affiliated groups and fraternal organizations enjoyed continued success. Dressed in traditional Welsh costume, the Cambrian Circle Singers, led by Nerys Haqq, have performed throughout the Vancouver area. The Society’s Social Committee continues to be active in promoting numerous events and fund-raising activities. Adhering to its traditional culture, the Society still holds a bilingual church service every month and a gymanfa ganu every year. The annual St. David’s Day Dinner is also a popular event.
Other groups that continue to maintain the Welsh factor in the Vancouver area are the Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir, the Vancouver Orpheus Choir and the Dylan Thomas Circle.
Gwyn Evans, a founding member of the Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir, was last year recognized as 2016’s Celtic Person
of the Year. The two choirs have a popular following and travel extensively throughout British Columbia and abroad. Both choirs have hosted visiting Welsh male choirs that attract sell-out audiences in the Vancouver area.

The Dylan Thomas Circle was founded by Welsh Society member Neville Thomas who sadly passed away early this year. The Circle has attracted members from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds since the late 1980s and has presented two sell-out performances of the poet’s *Under Milk Wood.*

Many other Welsh traditions are still being followed by Society members. At the Society’s Annual Spring Sale, Welsh baked goods like *bara brith* and Welsh cakes are big sellers and a traditional *te bach* is a regular feature of events like the monthly church services.

Over the past few years, the number of Welsh speakers among members has gradually declined as many older members have passed on. Welsh-speaking members still invariably communicate with each other in Welsh and there are Welsh-speaking sessions for those who wish to preserve fluency in the language.

There has also recently been renewed interest in learning the language, largely due to the Welsh classes inspired and taught by Celtic Scholar Dr. Antone Minard. Antone has also entertained members with stories and episodes from the Welsh and Celtic past. And the celebration of St. Dwynwen’s Day, thanks mainly to David Llewelyn Williams, has become a popular annual event with members.

Welsh Society members still believe it is important to keep the language alive as part of their heritage and culture. However, it appears that it will continue only if there are more Welsh-speaking immigrants from Wales. Descendants of Welsh immigrants are generally proud of their Welsh ancestry and many attend the Welsh learning classes.

Canada is a multicultural society and one of the main aims of the Vancouver Welsh Society is to share Welsh customs and traditions with their fellow Canadians. This account has focused mainly on the Welsh Society of Vancouver but there are also other Welsh Societies in British Columbia. There are, or were, Welsh Societies in Victoria, Nanaimo, the Okanagan and Shuswap.

Members of the Vancouver Welsh Society have also traditionally supported North American Welsh organizations and international events. For example, in recent years two members, Lynn Owens-Whalen and David Llewelyn Williams, have served on the Executive of the annual North American Festival of Wales. Lynn was President of the organization in 2002-4. Members have also over the years maintained close ties with Welsh Societies in the US Pacific Northwest.

The Vancouver Welsh Society is proud to maintain the integrity of the Cambrian Hall in honor of the dedication and foresight of Vancouver’s early Welsh pioneers and the generations that have contributed to preserving Welsh culture and traditions from within its walls. Together with other Celtic groups, the Vancouver Welsh Society is proud of its contributions over the years towards enriching the cultural life of this Province.

The Vancouver Welsh Society wishes to thank you for choosing the city of Vancouver and the Cambrian Hall to host the 2017 Celtic Studies Association of North America’s (CSANA) Annual Conference. We wish you every success over the next few days of the Conference.

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Dr. Peter Michael Byrne
March 5, 1936 - August 17, 2017

Peter passed away peacefully on August 17th surrounded by his family. He leaves behind his loving wife Jane, sons Sean (Elen) and Craig (Alessandra), granddaughters Rebecca and Greta, brother Donald (Shirley), sister Dr. Marie Arnall, special niece Miriam (Wayne) and numerous nephews and nieces in Canada, England and Ireland. Peter Byrne was born in Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin and gained his first engineering degree from University College, Dublin. He completed postgraduate studies at the University of British Columbia and was a Professor of Civil Engineering there from 1967 until his retirement in 2001. He continued his association with the University as Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering. Peter was highly regarded as a geotechnical consultant. In 2014 he was awarded the prestigious R.F. Legget Medal by the Canadian Geotechnical Society. The R.F. Legget Medal is the Society's highest honour and is presented to an individual for 'outstanding life-long contributions to geotechnique'. In 2009, Peter was presented with the Julian C. Smith Medal by the Engineering Institute for 'Achievement in the Development of Canada'. The Canadian Geotechnical Society noted at the time that his achievements were demonstrated by a wide range of projects on which he had been consulted, including bridges, tunnels, dams, rapid transit projects, airports and a wide variety of other facilities in seismically active areas in Canada and around the world. Peter gained further professional recognition by winning the Geoffrey Mayerhoff Award from the Canadian Geotechnical Society. Peter also built a reputation as a researcher, having written many papers in his area of expertise while pioneering many new procedures. He was also much in demand at national and international conferences as a consultant on several projects. To the Vancouver sailing fraternity Peter Byrne was well known as a competitive sailor. His passion for sailing led to his winning a Bronze Medal for Canada in the Flying Dutchman class at the 1967 Pan American Games and being selected as a member of Canada's Olympic sailing team at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. In 1973, with his wife Jane as crew, he won the Enterprise Class World Championship, held that year in Vancouver. Peter was a popular and respected member of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club for over fifty years. Jane, Sean and Craig, along with many friends and family members, will forever cherish the memories of summer sailings with Peter along the coast of British Columbia. The family is grateful for the exceptional tender loving care shown to Peter by the nursing staff on the fifth floor at Parkview. Donations in Peter's memory may be made to the Parkview Unit, Youville Residence, 4950 Heather St., Vancouver, BC, V5Z 3L9. A celebration of Life for Peter will be held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on Monday, September 11, from 2PM to 5PM.

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**The Bright Field** by R.S. Thomas

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying

on to a receding future, nor hankering
after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

This amusing poem was submitted by
member “Beti Bach” (Beti Darvell-Jones):

Here’s to our stoic editor, Ruth,
Who produces the news brief with
humour and truth!
Here’s to the gals of the Cambrian Club
Who provide all the food, social chatter
and hub.
Not forgetting the services, genealogy,
Welsh class and books,
The entertainment and cooking, cleaning,
dusting the nooks!
The President, the “President’s Men,” all
have a go –

The building, the garden, electrical, keys,
computers (not slow).
Pub nights, quizzes, dances - do not
forget -
The pianist, the planning, ideas,
suggestions, and yet –
We support one another, it’s all hail and
well met!

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The next newsletter will hopefully
reach you in December. Please send your
photographs of Welsh Society events –
not forgetting to give the names of the
people in them! – to the editor, Ruth
Baldwin, at
youcanreachruth@hotmail.com

Articles on events and issues of interest to
the Welsh community for inclusion in the
society newsletter are also very welcome.
A big **diolch**! to the contributors to this
edition.

Your views and participation are very
important for a thriving Welsh Society in
Vancouver, so please come out and join
in!
The Welsh Society of Vancouver invites you to a

Ceilidh/Twmpath/Barn Dance

The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver
on
Friday October 20th 2017 from 7:30pm – 10:30pm
with

The Rattlebone Band
and
JD Erskine (caller)

All dances taught on the spot! Come along and have some fun!

Beer, wine, coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be for sale.

$10 (13 years and older)
$5 (6 – 12 years)
Free (5 years and under)

For advance ticket sales, please contact: Pat Morris
(phone: 604 536 9556 – email: druidsgreen@gmail.com)