

Medi i Hydref
1997

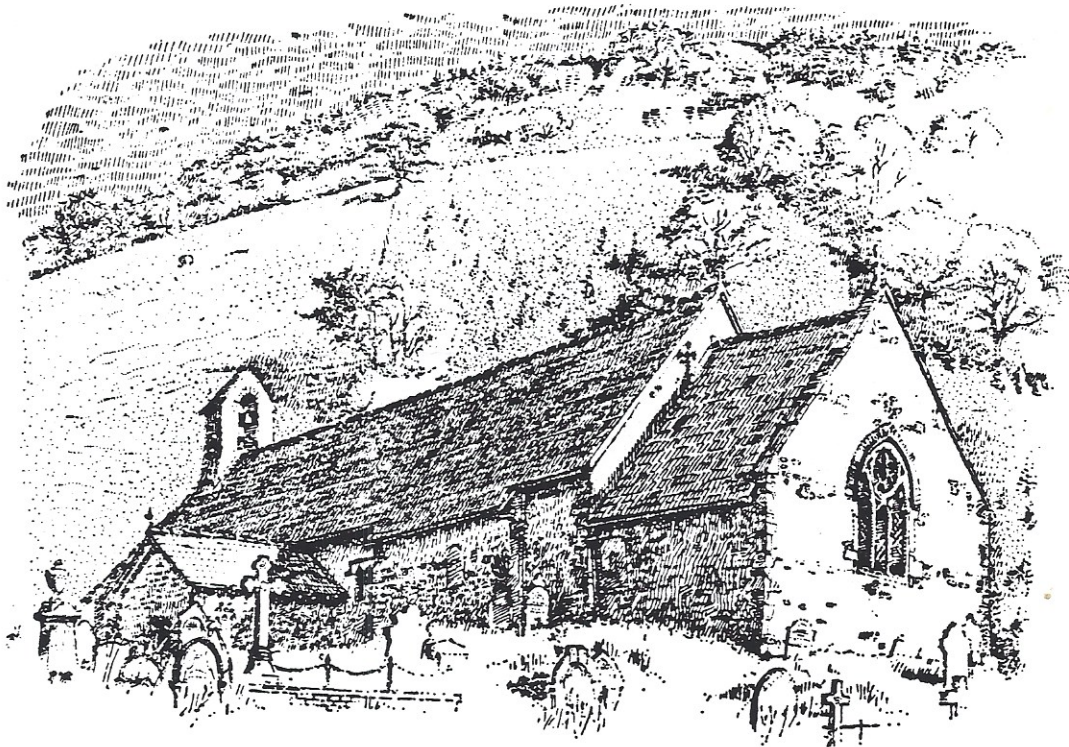


September to October
1997

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Saint David's Church Llanwrtyd

CARD DRAWING CONTRIBUTED BY: MRS. J. L. MORESIDE, CHASE, B.C.

Diana, Princess of Wales

The whole world was shocked to learn of the untimely death of Diana, Princess of Wales on August 31, 1997. During the week of mourning preceding her funeral and internment we saw a genuine outpouring of grief from the public world-wide. She was born privileged into an aristocratic family and could have chosen a quiet sheltered life under a monarchical system with eventual ascension to the throne of England. Her restless generous spirit found that existence too artificial, stifling and confining; so, with a blend of courage, single-mindedness and determination she discarded her assigned role and strode amongst the people to touch and embrace the "untouchables", the dying and the disadvantaged the world over. This remarkable quality to exhibit overt human compassion on a global scale, had endeared her to millions of ordinary human beings on the five continents. With her death, the ray of hope for countless despairing individuals has been dimmed for ever.

We mourn her passing.

1997 Welsh Society Annual Picnic

In the Welsh language they say "pryd awyr agored" which in English means "a picnic" or "open skies festivities".

After a very dismal start to the day (weatherwise) it certainly was "open skies" during the afternoon and evening; it became nice, sunny, warm and cosy which drew some 40 members and friends to the Annual Society Picnic at our President's residence and garden area. Jeff and Gaynor (our hosts) had worked hard to prepare the fare for us and to make us feel at home. What a "ball" we had!

The swimming pool was prepared for the "brave"; there were many venturesome people who had a dip you could tell — they were screaming with happiness(?) as they splashed about. Others found comfort in their deck-chairs under the shady trees, and many thought that sun-tanning was best for them. The dartboard, lawn darts, horse shoes and canoe trips were all used to the "hilt". Oh yes! there was fishing too. It's no fish story that Jeff Owen caught a ten pounder (salmon). Some argued that he had pulled it out of his freezer. This is NOT SO. To prove it was true we had to give it the "last rites" before putting it to rest. As time wore on the "wafting" cooking smells alerted the attendees to prepare themselves for the feast that was to come.

"Jeff the Chef" had been busy (in between many other duties) preparing the B.B.Qs and loading them with hamburgers, chicken, "bangers", hot garlic bread and baked tin-foil wrapped "spuds". To complement the main meal we had pork and eggs; "tit bits on sticks" (they were YUMMY) and salads of all kinds. Yes! there were Welsh cakes too, and for our sweet taste we had a choice of fresh fruit salads consisting of water melons, cantelopes, black olives, raspberries, grape and cherries or as an alternate, you could enjoy raspberry and lemon meringue pie. Soft drinks, tea and coffee were available for all to enjoy.

As time went on, and everyone settled down after the feast (NOT TO SLEEP) but to form a circle of chairs around the garden in readiness for what was to come. Everyone livened up as Enid Lewis and Alan Tucker brought in the portable keyboard complete with song sheets. Helped by some of the Welsh Choir members we sang the old and the new songs, culminating the "variety night" at 9pm with our national anthem.

It would be remiss of me not to mention our hosts' efforts in preparing things for our comfort and enjoyment— yes! "they go the extra mile" always. They had fixed two large tarpaulins to the house roof which covered the sun deck completely and the walk area below— all this was in case it would rain. As there was NO RAIN the tarpaulins substituted as "sun shades" which was very much appreciated and enjoyed by many. What a day to remember—our 1997 Annual Picnic!!

Many thanks to Jeff and Gaynor Owen for the wonderful day of fun, frolics and friendship. They deserve our praise for a job well done.

Submitted by Ellis Griffiths

Dear Mr Editor,

The cover of your May/June issue of the Newsletter, showing the church at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog (former Denbighshire & later former Clwyd) produced happy recollections.

As a boy, I was brought up at Pontfadog, a village six miles downstream from Llanarmon in the beautiful Dyffryn (vale of) Ceiriog. My most recent visit to Llanarmon was with my wife in 1994 when we had coffee in the Hand Hotel; we partly remember the occasion because it was a slightly chilly September day and without a word the staff lit the ready-made wood fire in the lounge.

I also recall a visit back in 1962 when I was doing some local history research. I borrowed a key from the rector and opened an old chest at the back of the church, and from it extracted parish registers and made notes. Probably such an exercise is no longer possible, the registers being in some archive and church locked to prevent theft and vandalism.

There was also a piece of mechanical history parked in the village centre on that occasion. It was a steam roller belonging to Denbighshire County Council and though it had a cold boiler, it must have been recently used. By 1965 virtually all steam rollers in North Wales had been retired for good.

This valley of the Ceiriog has exerted a great fascination for me all my life (now 69) and has resulted in me writing two booklets and one book about it. Last month my book was published in North Wales and its subject is the history of a grain watermill. This mill used to stand 150 yards below my Pontfadog boyhood home and was still working in the 1930s. In more recent years it became a ruin and was demolished in 1981. The enclosed leaflet provides more details about the mill and the book.

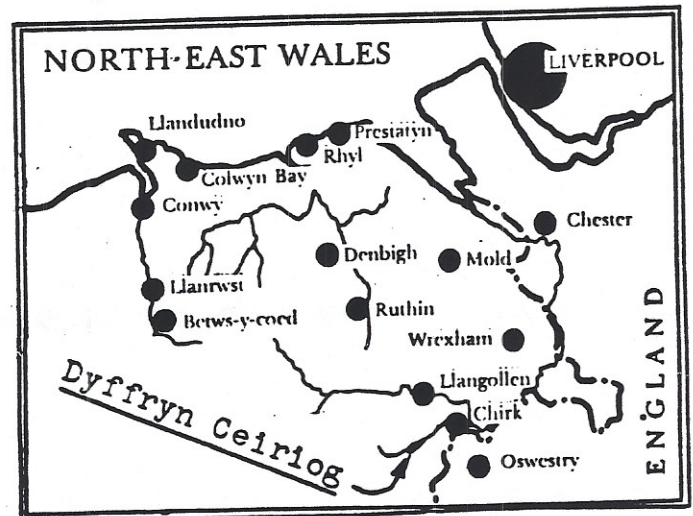


AA*** THE HAND HOTEL RAC***
LLANARMON D.C., Nr. LLANGOLLEN, CLWYD

As a member of our Society, I have managed to get details of the Society into the book, in the form of end-note 5.23 on p.158. This is because of the coincidence that Jonathan Rogers (1864-1945), whose name appears on the foundation-laying stone of 1929 of the Cambrian Hall, was born in the Ceiriog and not two miles from 'my' watermill. The world is really quite a small place !

Thank you for permitting me these reminiscences.

Dave Davies, out-of-town member, Kamloops, August 1997



Diana , Princess of Wales

(1961 — 1997)

*"Yn nwf'n swyn ei fynwes O
Caf lonydd, caf le i huno."*

Ben Bowen

Those were the words that were written in the Book of
Condolences at the British Consulate General in
the name of the President and Members
of the Welsh Society of Vancouver

Ann Roberts

The Dylan Thomas Circle Update

Circle members enjoyed their annual "Outing" on Aug. 23rd when they headed for Bowen Island. After a lengthy hearty lunch at Doc Morgan's pub in Snug Cove we headed for the Lodge at the Old Dorm for an afternoon of discussion and conviviality. We were fortunate to have as leader Prof. Ralph Maud, a renowned authority on Dylan Thomas. A gourmet five-course dinner followed to cap a memorable day.

The next major event is the Dylan Thomas Annual Gathering on Saturday, November 8th. A variety of events and a pub lunch during the day will be followed by the Annual Dinner in the evening.

For further information, please phone Alan Jones (437 - 0304) or Neville Thomas (294 - 0304).

Submitted by Neville Thomas

Vancouver Welsh Folk Dancers

Practice sessions recommence at the Cambrian Hall on Thursday Sept. 25, 1997, at 7.30pm and every Thursday thereafter. For further information please contact Gaynor Evans.

Cambrian Circle Singers

Rehearsals start on Wed. Sept. 17th at 8.00pm at the Cambrian Hall. On 24th Sept. there will be a "sing-out" at Lakeside Place, Vancouver. October rehearsals are on the 3rd and 10th.

Welsh Lessons

These will be held at the Cambrian Hall every Monday at 7.30pm commencing on Sept. 15th. We are thinking of introducing the WLPAN method this year on a trial basis. This method was devised in Israel and designed to help Russian Jews learn the language quickly after they had emigrated from Russia to Israel. Apparently the method has been adopted and applied to several foreign languages world-wide.

Forthcoming Events

- 1) ANNIVERSARY DINNER—Oct. 4th
97 at the Cambrian Hall.
- 2) MULLED WINE & CAROLING
Nov 29th
at the Cambrian Hall

Strange Coincidences

On December 5, 1664, the first in the greatest series of coincidences in history occurred. On this date, a ship in the Menai Strait, North Wales sank with 81 passengers on board. There was one survivor—a man named Hugh Williams. On the same date in 1785, a ship sank with 60 passengers aboard. There was one survivor—a man named Hugh Williams. On the very same date in 1860, a ship sank with 25 passengers on board. Again there was one survivor—a man named Hugh Williams.

Playing Dumb

Before a burglary trial, the judge explained to the defendant, "You can let me try your case, or you can choose to have a jury of your peers." The man looked puzzled. "What are peers?" he asked. "They're people just like you—your equals." "Forget it," retorted the defendant. "I don't want to be tried by a bunch of thieves".

The Annual Van. Welsh Assn. Golf Tourny

The N. Wales v. S. Wales golf match took place on June 21 last. On this occasion the North won a decisive victory with a comfortable margin of 37 strokes. After the match the participants and members of our society met at the 19th hole (our hall) for a meal, some friendly banter and distribution of prizes.

Bob Marsh and Rob Barclay were complimented for arranging the smooth-running event.

This was North Wales' first victory and the score now is South 3, North 1.

W. A. Report

The W. A. wound up its Spring session with a luncheon at the Oakridge Seniors centre. This was arranged by Ann Jones and we all agreed that it was a very nice way to finish off. Ann has worked very hard for the W. A. and we do appreciate her efforts.

With the loss of some very valued members, our ranks have been severely depleted this year. Some of our ladies have been kept busy with jobs, conflicting meetings and sadly, ill health. We hope these things will resolve themselves so that we will be able to carry on.

The W. A. performs a valuable role as a fund raiser. This year, so far, we have provided the money for the purchase of a much needed large coffee urn, a dish washer, funded the purchase of four lovely new card tables and will be contributing to the purchase of a new filing cabinet for the archives.

Much of this was possible through the untiring efforts of Ann Jones and the Society members who come to our aid so willingly when called upon. We thank you, each and everyone.

Beverly Thomas, Secretary

Membership Report

Our membership has dropped slightly this year, but is still strong. However we always welcome more Welsh voices, folk dancing aspirants, and those who challenge the learning of our Welsh language.

At this time of year, to any new Welsh members, we offer a prorated fee, which is good until January 1, 1998.

With the many events planned for the balance of the year, this would be an excellent time to join us.

Beverly Thomas, Membership

BRITAIN

Second best for the principality

In the September 18th referendum

IN CONTRAST to Scotland, the Welsh seem to be getting a weak-kneed affair. Laws for the principality will continue to be made at Westminster, and the assembly's job will be to exercise the secondary legislative powers (ie, over the way Westminster's laws are put into practice) now used by the Welsh secretary.

This gives Westminster the option of keeping a tight grip over the assembly. Although the present government is likely to give the assembly fairly wide discretion over how it implements laws passed in London, a future Tory government determined to impose its will on Wales could give the assembly very little room to manoeuvre.

Much the same is true of the assembly's financial power, which will be limited to deciding how to spend the money now granted to the Welsh secretary—£7 billion (\$11 billion) in 1997-98. This should bring greater public accountability to the network of quangos (such as the Welsh Development Agency) which were much distrusted under the Tories. But the assembly will not itself be able to raise taxes, a severe limitation.

Labour held back from proposing tax-raising and legislative powers for the assembly for fear of splitting the Welsh Labour Party, which has never been as enthusiastic about devolution as its Scot-

tish counterpart. But in trying to maintain party unity, Mr Blair's government may have sacrificed support for devolution among voters. Opinion polls in Wales indicate that more people would have been planning to vote "yes" if the assembly were more like the Scottish parliament. Yet the scheme should still pass, despite the anti-devolution urgings of several Labour MPs, who have broken ranks with their party's leadership.

An opinion poll in mid August, by Beaufort Research, found that 48% intended to vote for the proposals, 26% against, and 26% were undecided. Other polls show that a "yes" vote is even more likely if the Scots approve their scheme.



The V.W.Society Officers

- President — Jeff Owen (604) 946-4956
- Im.P.Pres. — Ann Roberts(604) 925-4662
- Secretary — Mary Slaney(604) 888-6563
- Treasurer — John Morris (604) 536-9556
- Mem. Sec. — Beverly Thomas(604) 738-0680
- Editor — Gwilym Evans(604) 274-3794

Submitted by Neville Thomas

Phone. 01970 890205.

Hafod-y-Coed,
Devil's Bridge,
Aberystwyth,
WALES. U.K.
SY23 4QU.

28th August, 1997.

Gaynor Evans,
The Welsh Society of Vancouver,
215 East 17th Avenue,
VANCOUVER,
CANADA. B.C. V5V 1A6

Dear Gaynor Evans,

In the year, 1984, I wrote and published a book of poetry titled 'The Golden Lure'. Included in this volume was a long, narrative poem titled 'The Rustle of the Leaves' and this is a story of a young, Canadian airman who comes to Wales in search of his roots. His search leads him to an abandoned, ruined farmhouse where, in a dream, he is told a story.

It was a year or so later when, writing my second book of poetry (The Silver Thread) I felt that the story did not end there and I found myself writing a sequel - 'The Ripples in the Stream'. Later, when writing a third book (The Pool of Light) I again found myself thinking of the story and wondering how it all ended; I found myself writing a final episode - 'The Silence of the Snow'.

These three long poems have now come together as - 'A Patch of Blue Sky' - a narrative poem in three parts. This is an attractive book of 88 pages; a book which will bring pleasure and nostalgia to its readers and also a reminder that the art of the bard is still alive, here in Wild Wales.

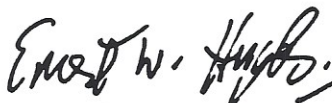
Copies are available from myself, (the author and publisher), price seventeen (17) Dollars, which includes packing and airmail.

Copies in the U.K. are priced £7.00. which includes postage.

I thought that, perhaps, your Society might like to buy a copy and pass it around or, maybe, read the story at one of your meetings. As a fellow Welshman, (though with limited language), I send my greetings and "Dymuniadau Gorau" to you all.

Diolch yn fawr iawn,

Yours sincerely,



Ernest W. Hughes.

September 1997

Mis Medi 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
7	8	9	10 7:30 pm General Mtg	11	12	13 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
14 11:00 am Church Service and te bach	15 7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons	16	17 W.A. (Noon) Cambrian Circle Singers	18 Welsh Speaking Night	19	20 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
21	22 7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons	23	24 Cambrian Circle Singers singout at Lakeside Place	25	26	27 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
28	29 Welsh Lessons	30				

Oct 4
Anniversary
Dinner Dance

Welsh Men's Choir Rehearsals Tuesdays at Cambrian Hall.
Orpheus Choir Tuesday Evenings at John Oliver High School
530 East 41st Ave, Room 201, at 7:30 p.m.

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society
Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.
V5V 1A6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815