

Medi i Hydref  
1998



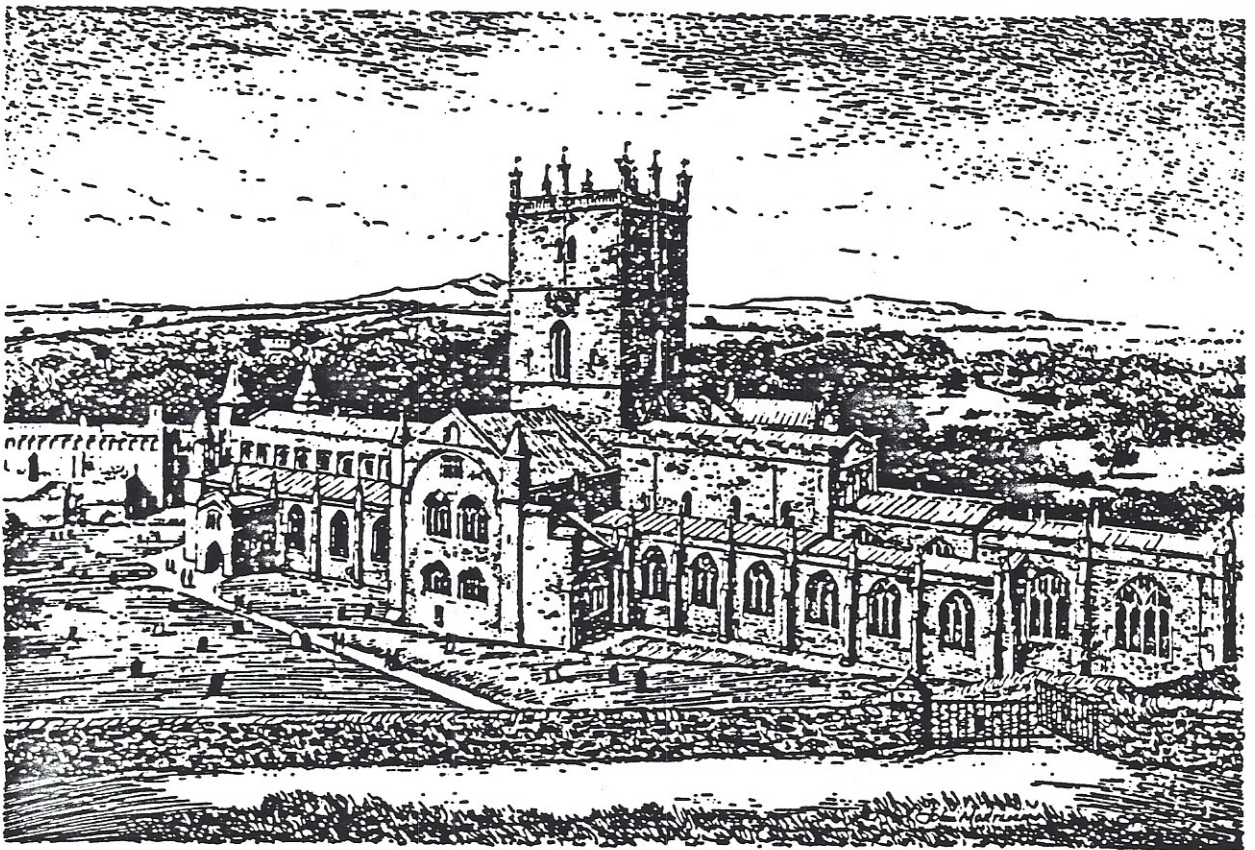
September to October  
1998

*Sŵn Pagan 3*

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

# Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



ST. DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, DYFED, WALES

*The first church here was built some 1400 years ago by David (Dewi) who became St David and patron saint of Wales. The present cathedral is at least the third to be built on this site. The Norman church we see today was begun around 1100 with additions over the years culminating in the casting of the third stage of the tower in about 1250. On the left are the remains of the Bishop's Palace erected between the 12th and 15th centuries. It was an 'interior' made on the orders of St David, the splendid and ceiling fine wood carving, and a 14th century screen.*

Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones  
752 East 2nd Ave  
North Vancouver, BC. Can V7L 1E4



## VANCOUVER WELSH WEEKEND (A report by Betty Pierce.)

It was an easy walk from the Biltmore to Cambrian Hall for the Nosen Lawen, where the welcoming merriment included the fine singing of two Welsh numbers by Salem's Blake Blodgetts. We were invited to take a break and go downstairs to the Red Dragon for a Ploughman's Lunch, and, believe me, Ploughmen never had it so good. There were platters of meats, cheeses, deviled eggs and many sweet goodies including Welsh cakes. With our trays brimming, we returned upstairs for more entertainment; truly a send-off for a festive weekend.

Saturday night's concert was a delight. The Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir was in good form, and the Norman Madrigal Singers, about twelve in number, were a rare treat. The Dylan Thomas Circle gave selected readings. During intermission juice and Welsh cakes were served. That capable chairperson, Ann Roberts, kept things moving along to the end of the concert, when the entire ensemble sang, "We'll Keep a Welcome," inviting the audience to join in. Then the singing of "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" was followed by the afterglow of another evening at the Red Dragon, with more fellowship, singing, eating, meeting new people and visiting with old friends.

Sunday's Gymanfa Ganu was conducted by Tim Dyck of Washington and Rhiannon Acree of Los Angeles. Starting off with a rousing Diadem and ending with Cwm Rhonda. There were solos by Vancouver's Alan Tucker and Salem's Blake Hodgetts. The talented accompanist, Enid Lewis, played for the Nosen Lawen, afterglows and Gymanfa Ganu, never losing her graciousness during the three days.

At the start of the afternoon, Elizabeth Murray gave a reading in Welsh, while "God Be With You" and the national anthem of Wales brought the Gymanfa to an end. Te Bach was held in the adjoining fellowship hall, with a lovely spread of fancy sandwiches, cakes and pies, accompanied by plenty of great tea. The Committee, headed by Don Murray, are to be commended for their hard work and attention to detail which made this Welsh Weekend a rousing success.

At the general meeting, the gavel passed from the outgoing President, Tim Dyck, to the incoming President, Brian Parry. Next year's Weekend will be held in the state of Washington, possibly Tacoma or Seattle. The name PNWGGGA has now officially changed to WAPNW Welsh Association of the Pacific Northwest, clearly identifying it with the Welsh.

## Silver Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, July 11th, an event of great importance took place at the Cambrian Hall. From far and near, family, friends and co-workers of Jeff and Gaynor Owen gathered to join in celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary.

The hall was alive with flowers, a wishing-well and quantities of food as friends came to wish the popular couple and their children, Susan and Adrian, the very best.

Mr. Art Robbins recounted his memories of a young couple, fresh from Wales, fitting into a new country and new jobs. It was a humorous, not always easy, life for them in the early years. We all joined in most heartily to the toast he proposed.

Jeff, in turn, spoke of the twenty-five years and thanked us all for coming. This was enthusiastically supported by Gaynor. She also thanked everyone for their support.

The speeches were followed by an Anniversary Waltz led by Jeff and Gaynor.

Thanks should go to all who contributed goodies to supplement the food provided by our hosts. Gwen Tonack deserves a special 'thank you' for the many phone calls and for coordinating the food.

Favors, beautifully made by Gaynor's Auntie Glad Evans, were given to everyone. Gladys also provided the Anniversary Cake.

The evening was memorable, a fitting salute to one of the Welsh Society's hardest working couples.

May your second twenty-five be just as fulfilling, Jeff and Gaynor.

Submitted by Beverly Thomas

## Annual Golf Tournament

The North Wales v. South Wales golf tournament took place on Saturday, June 20th at the Delta Golf Course under ideal sunny conditions. For the second year in a row the North took the honours, winning by a comfortable margin.

After the match, the golf teams and members of our Society met at the Cambrian Hall for some nourishment and distribution of prizes. During the course of the evening thanks were extended to Bob Marsh and Rob Barclay for arranging a well-run tournament.

Thanks are also accorded to all who helped in the procurement and preparation of the side dishes and desserts which complemented the barbecued meats; and those that helped at the bar during the evening.

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## CORRECTION

In our last edition of the newsletter an article appeared which purported that 24 Sussex Drive, the Canadian Prime Minister's residence in Ottawa, used to be called Gorffwysfa. This is incorrect. That distinction should have gone to Stornoway— the residence of the Leader of the Opposition.

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## WELSH LESSONS

After a run of four years, the Welsh lessons have been discontinued due to lack of new recruits.

I wish to thank Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones for his ready and loyal support as co-tutor during this period.

G. Evans

## Cambrian Circle Singers

Under the capable baton of Nerys Haqq, the Cambrian Circle Singers are preparing for the forthcoming season.

The September rehearsals, which commence at 8pm, are scheduled as follows:

Friday, Sept. 11th

Wednesday, Sept. 16th

Friday, Sept. 25th

The first performance is at the Icelandic Care Home in Vancouver, on 30th September at 7pm.

October rehearsals are scheduled for October 9th and 16th, followed by a performance at 7pm at the Youville Residence, Vancouver. The final rehearsal in October is on the 28th.

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## Welsh Folk Dancing

Rehearsals for the 1998/99 season commence on Thursday, September 10th, at 7.30pm at the Cambrian Hall.

New recruits are welcomed. For information please call Gaynor Evans at 271 - 3134.

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When a man points his finger at someone else, he should remember that three of his fingers are pointing at himself.

— ANONYMOUS

Shadows of Under Milk Wood (isn't life a terrible thing, thank God )

The Vancouver Fringe Festival is presenting five performances of a very loose adaptation of Dylan Thomas' classic play, Under Milk Wood, with the above title. It is directed by Kate Hale, the renowned co-director of England's highly regarded Foursight Theatre.

To illustrate how unusual this performance promises to be, the cast (who paid for the privilege of being in the play) spent three days communing in a woods in the Fraser Valley! Each actor is encouraged to develop their own interpretation of the characters they play. This is Dylan with a decided difference.

Show times :

- Fri. Sept. 11 @ 5 :45 pm
- Sat. Sept. 12 @ 9 :00pm
- Tue. Sept. 15 @ 10 :15pm
- Sat. Sept. 19 @ 2 :30pm
- Sun. Sept 20 @ 2 :15pm

Venue # 6 : Vancouver Performing Arts Centre at 138 E. Cordova St.

Tickets are \$8 , concession prices \$7.

For more information, see your Fringe Festival guide or call WPA at 689 - 9569.

Neville Thomas



Welsh proverb : Adversity comes with an instruction book in its hand.



**Humourous quotes :**

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

— Will Rogers

To create a housing shortage in a huge country, heavily wooded, with a small population— ah, that's proof of pure political genius.

— Richard J. Needham  
(Globe and Mail, Toronto)

## Seattle Welsh lose two key members

In the last six months the Seattle Welsh Society has seen the passing of two of its most valued members. They were also strong supporters of activities here in Vancouver and will be fondly remembered by many of our members.

### **Richard 'Dic' Jones**

1929 - 1998

Born and died in Llanberis, at the foot of Mt Snowden

One of 16 children, Dic apprenticed as a carpenter, married a local girl and raised 4 daughters. When his wife, Mairwen, died suddenly in the 1970's, Dic emigrated to the US, re-married and set up home at Bainbridge Island, near Seattle where he lived for 22 yrs. He found ready work as a top rate carpenter and insisted on going to work in a tweed jacket and tie as he had always done in Wales (one wonders at the reaction of fellow American workers).

Dic taught the Welsh class in Seattle and a choir soon evolved. From all this came Seattle's Welsh activism in the 80's and Dic is seen as the 'father' of it all. We in Vancouver certainly benefitted because our cousins 'from across the 49' heartily supported our many activities in those years, and still do. Dic would be seen in a cloud of blue smoke at all our Noson Lawens in the Red Dragon and Gymanfas.

Cigarettes and bacon and multiple egg breakfasts eventually took their toll.

Er Cof Annwyl.

### **Pat Matthews**

1927-1998

Born in Boise, Idaho and died in Bothell, Washington

Pat, an active member in the Seattle Welsh community for the past twenty five years, died at her home in Bothell on July 6 after a long seven year illness. She grew up as an 'Army brat' (her husband's term) and married Bob, an army officer. Pat is survived by her husband, six children, six grandchildren, two sisters and a brother.

Pat joined the first of the Seattle Welsh language classes begun by David Morgan, Eleanor Pini and Benton Williams. That learning experience, plus the experience of her first ever National Gymanfa Ganu in Vancouver, BC, led her to become a promoter of things Welsh and one of the very first sopranos in Côr Cymraeg Seattle.

She was never happier than when in the company of the Welsh, and became known throughout the Pacific Northwest, enjoying the Oregon gatherings in Corvallis, Salem, Portland and Beaver Creek, those in Washington at Seattle and Bellingham and never missed the British Columbia celebrations in Vancouver, Victoria, Penticton and Nanaimo.

It was her wholesome warmth that endearingly attracted us all. Known kindly as 'mother' to so many in Seattle, she contributed greatly to the strong, cohesive Welsh presence in the Pacific Northwest.

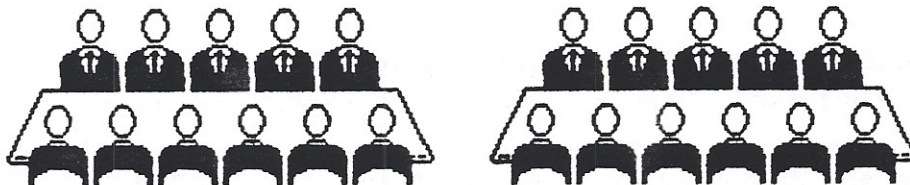
We shall miss her love, her smile, her voice and wisdom.

"Mae'n dawl gyda'r Iesu wrth y groes", (Rhys) - sung at Pat's funeral.

(Contributed by Neville Thomas in conjunction with Jennifer Nightingale and Bob Mathews)

## Vancouver Welsh Society

### The Anniversary Dinner



The Annual Anniversary Dinner will be held at the Cambrian Hall at 7pm on Saturday, October 3rd., 1998.

Tickets are \$20.00 and are obtainable by phoning :

Gwen Tonack at 738 - 3377

or

Gaynor Owen at 946 - 4956

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### Annual Picnic

The day for the annual Society Picnic dawned rather cloudy and dull in Vancouver, but as soon as we went through the tunnel "Sunny Ladner" lived up to its name.

The many members who were there had a wonderful time. There were games of horseshoes and darts; canoe rides, and a few hardy souls took a dip in the rather chilly, solar-heated pool( no sun - no heat !). The barbecues were fired up and everybody ate and drank well.

Special guests were Ron and Ann Watkins from California who are well-known to, and great supporters of the Vancouver Welsh Society. They had their luxurious motor home parked in the Owen's driveway and tours were a highlight of the afternoon !

Ellis Griffiths thanked Jeff and Gaynor on behalf of the Society for inviting us once more to their home for the Picnic and for all the time and preparation they put in to make it so enjoyable. We all echo that— "Diolch yn fawr iawn".

Elizabeth Murray

## Dylan Thomas Circle Annual Gathering

For their October 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering and Dinner, the Dylan Thomas Circle have accomplished a 'coup' beyond even their own vivid expectations. One of the world's leading Dylan scholars and author, Professor Walford Davies, of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and Oxford has agreed to fly over and lead the Circle in a day of analysis, discussion, reflection and inspiration. He is renowned as one of the most engaging public speakers so the daytime sessions and the post Dinner address promise to be exceptional.

To further enhance this extraordinary weekend, we have just learned that Professor Davies will be accompanied by his wife, Dr Hazel Davies, who is a Senior Lecturer at Aberystwyth, and has been a Visiting Professor at various American universities. Her specialty is Welsh Culture and History and she has authored many books and articles on Welsh literature and drama, particularly on Sir O. M. Edwards and Saunders Lewis. She has indicated a keen desire to meet with The Welsh Society and to establish close links for future liaison. Those arrangements will be undertaken by the Welsh Executive, probably for the Sunday afternoon of October 25<sup>th</sup>

An 'Open House' is planned for the evening of Friday, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> probably from 7:30 on, at the Cambrian Hall with the opportunity to meet Professor Walford and Dr Hazel Davies, both are natives of the Gwendraeth Valley in Carmarthenshire, and are 'Cymru glan' of the South Wales vintage. There is no charge for the evening (to attract the Welsh from the other part) and everyone is welcome to attend. Information and tickets for the Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> daytime workshops and the evening Annual Dinner are available from Alan Jones (437-0304) or Neville Thomas (294-4332).

Submitted by Neville Thomas

Commences on following page.

It is such whiffs of Welsh triumphalism that English-only speakers object to—the not-very-subtle implication that the only real Welsh are those who speak the language. A small, but telling example: a Welsh pop group, Super Furry Animals, was ordered to sing only Welsh-language songs at the 1997 Eisteddfod, a cultural festival, as if English had no place in Welsh culture. That would be a great surprise to Anthony Hopkins, Jan Morris or Dylan Thomas.

Submitted by Neville Thomas

Wales's language disputes are certainly nothing to those of Belgium, where personal relations between the Flemish and Walloon communities can be rancorous, or of Quebec, where English-speakers have left in droves. (In fact, the English continue to come to Wales in substantial numbers, something many language activists deplore.) Even those who do not speak the language say they are proud of it.

Still, there is concern that the drive for Welsh is politicising, and therefore poisoning, personal relations. Parents who dispute language policies in schools have been known to get threatening phone calls. An English-only Welshman, who now lives overseas, but whose family has been in Anglesey for generations, reflects that he no longer feels comfortable visiting: "I don't speak Welsh and am made to feel it." It would be a terrible, but all too plausible, irony if the end result of the effort to revive Welsh was to divide the nation on language lines, rather than to unite it in pride.



# The Welsh language Patriot games

CARDIFF AND LLANGŒFI

Welsh and English have equal status in Wales. Is this a good idea?

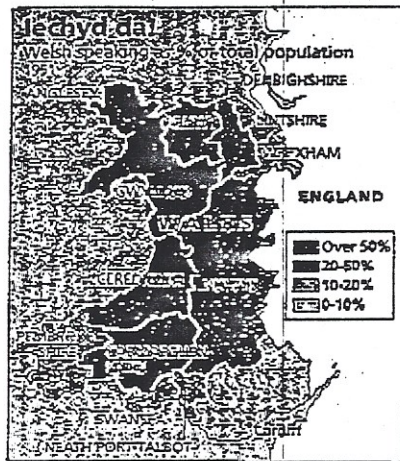
ON THE Isle of Anglesey, the notion of a bilingual Wales seems not so much an ideal as a fact of life. Children wait at the *safle bws* (bus stop) to go to *ysgol* (school); shop assistants switch between Welsh and English in the same breath. Welsh is the currency of daily life on much of the island. "This is a Welsh-speaking pub," a thirsty American is told at a hostelry not far from Penmon point, "but for you, we'll make an exception."

All told, almost two-thirds of Anglesey residents speak Welsh; among children under 16, three-quarters do. But a few dozen miles to the east, the notion of bilingualism seems bizarre. In the counties that hug the English border, Welsh is heard on the street about as often, say, as it is in Berlin.

Among Welsh of all language skills and backgrounds, there is broad support for ensuring the survival of Welsh, one of Europe's oldest languages. In contrast to Scotland, Wales's linguistic heritage is central to its sense of being apart from you-know-who. The Welsh anthem even makes reference to it: "My country, tho' crushed by a hostile array/The language of Cambria lives out to this day." At the same time, though, only one in five residents is able to speak Welsh; and few of those do so on a regular basis. And there is a burgeoning disquiet that the promotion of Welsh is becoming the tyranny of a minority.

The specific grievance is that the Welsh Language Act of 1993, which declared that Welsh and English were to be considered "on a basis of equality", has actually tipped the balance toward Welsh. The Act was the culmination of a decades-long effort to reverse the decline in Welsh. Beginning with the provision of Welsh-language broadcasting in the 1960s, through the increased teaching of Welsh in schools that began in the 1970s, and the establishment of a Welsh TV channel, S4C, in the 1980s, the decline has slowed and now been reversed. Although the 1991 Census estimated that only 18.5% of 2.9m residents speak Welsh, down from 21% in 1971, among younger people the opposite is true. More than a quarter of 10-14-year-olds speak the language; in 1971, only 17% did.

The Welsh Language Act stipulated that Welsh speakers should be able to have access to all public services in Welsh, should they wish. All government institutions were required to draw up plans to accommodate and promote the use of Welsh. These are presented to the Welsh Language



Board (*Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg*) for approval. Private businesses and groups can draw up schemes if they wish. Marks and Spencer, Barclays Bank, Tesco and even the General Electric plant near Cardiff, where few of the workers are Welsh speakers, are among those who have installed bilingual signs and taken other steps. Supporting Welsh has become a sign of corporate cool.

But there is an unpleasant flip-side to the promotion of Welsh. Militant language activists have been known to picket stores or pour glue in their locks if, in their opinion, not enough Welsh is present. Stores have been intimidated into providing Welsh lessons for staff, even in places like Cardiff, where Welsh is not the language of commerce. The folks at the board dismiss these as fringe activities, which they are. However obnoxious, at least such actions have the virtue of clarity: Welsh is best. Mainstream promoters of the language are less forthright. Specifically, they have not answered three important questions. Is a bilingual Wales possible? How much compulsion is acceptable? And can Welsh become over-privileged?

### Principles and practices

The intent of the act was not, of course, to annoy the 80% of Welsh residents who do not speak Welsh. "We don't want to do anything at the expense of non-Welsh speakers," says John Walter Jones, chief of the Welsh Language Board. "If we raise hackles, we're lost."

As an expression of principle, that is fair enough. But in practice, it is impossible to assert Welsh without disadvantaging English-only speakers to some extent. For example, making Welsh necessary or preferred for housing allocation or government jobs, as some local authorities now do, certainly

works against English-only applicants. Gwynedd County Council requires that all internal communications be in Welsh only and either prefers or requires Welsh-speakers in all jobs. The reasoning is that almost three-quarters of Gwynedd residents speak Welsh, and some are more comfortable in that language. But it is also true that 100% of Gwynedd residents speak English. Even for jobs in which linguistic skills are barely relevant, such as for a dustman or an accountant, English-only applicants are in effect shut out.

Welsh speakers are the majority in areas inhabited by about 10% of the population (see map). A different set of problems surrounds the promotion of Welsh in the bulk of the country where English is dominant. In southern Wales, home to 70% of the population, about one in five people can speak Welsh, but in practice few do: 98% of households communicate in English. (Of the remaining 2%, half speak a language other than Welsh, such as Bengali.) But under the Welsh Language Act it is compulsory to teach all children Welsh, up to the age of 16.

Tim Williams, a bilingual historian who is the *bête noir* of Welsh-language activism, argues that the ever-increasing emphasis on Welsh and Welshness in school, at the expense of other subjects, including foreign languages, is a wasteful and immoral use of "children as the cannon fodder in an unwinnable war for Welsh". And indeed some schools have tried to resist the compulsory extension of Welsh language lessons, arguing that since little Welsh was spoken in their community, the money could be better spent elsewhere. St David's High School in Flintshire noted in a recent letter that "our local community sees itself socially and culturally as English, living yards from a border which to them does not effectively exist."

English-only Welsh can become furtive and uncomfortable when asked about language policy. To be critical is to risk being attacked as not being really Welsh, or even of being anti-Welsh. It is fashionable to say that teaching children Welsh and English will help them to learn other languages—and it is true that Welsh-medium schools have produced above-average results. But when Stephen Gorard of the University of Wales presented research at an academic conference that indicated that the intake of Welsh-medium schools was better-off than average, and that this helped to account for their superior academic results, outraged dons shouted him down. "The ethos", Mr Gorard concludes sadly, "is not one of open academic debate."

Continues on previous page

# September 1998

October 3rd

Anniversary Dinner  
 Tickets Please - in advance only  
 Catering:- by Jordans

## Mis Medi 1998

Men's Choir rehearsals Tuesdays 7:30 pm  
 Welsh Men's: at Cambrian Hall  
 Orpheus: at John Oliver High School, Room 201

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 11: a.m. Church Service & te bach	14	15 Orpheus Men's Choir	16 W.A. (Noon) Meeting 8:00 p.m. Cambrian Circle Mixed Choir	17 Folk Dancing Welsh Speaking Evening	18	19 Retreat at Grace Lutheran Church in Bby Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
20	21	22	23	24 7:30 p.m Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing	25	26 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm

Cyndethas Cymraeg Pancoeter Welsh Society  
 Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Pancoeter, B.C.  
 P5P 1G6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815

27	28	29	30 7:00 p.m. Cambrian Circle Choir Singout Icelandic Care Home
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# October 1998

## Mis Hydref 1998

4	5	6	7 7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	8	9	10 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
11 11: a.m. Church Service & te bach	12	13	14 7:30 p.m. General Mtg	15	16	17 WMChoir Benefit Central Heights Ch Abbotsford 8 pm Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
				1	2	3 Anniversary Dinner Red Dragon 6p.m. for 7:00

Thanksgiving