

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Gwanwyn

2014

Spring

2014

Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



Menna Elfyn at the Cambrian Hall

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

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This issue marks the beginning of a quarterly newsletter, which largely documents society events. Our website should be sufficient in most cases to alert members to society details on a monthly basis. I am most grateful to Gwyn Evans for providing me with the three society photographs and I am grateful to Eifion Williams for the articles on Art Kelm. Grenville Thomas and John Hughes.

The month of February and St. David's Day certainly offered a memorable series of events and we were privileged to have Menna Elfyn visit. Poetry is the soul of Welsh culture! Later this month you will have the opportunity to view the second episode of *The Story of Wales*, which deals with the time up to that of Owain Glyndwr. But the next major event is our Spring Sale, which, has significantly contributed to our finances in the past. Volunteer or donate or at least attend!

The Constitution states that the Membership Secretary is required to inform members who have not paid within three month's delay that their membership has expired. So make Mathew's life easier and renew now!

David Llewelyn Williams

A Big thank you to all those who came to Art's funeral and were so supportive to me, and to those who sent me lovely Sympathy cards. Your kindness was a great comfort and thank you again,

Mary Lewis

*Forthcoming Spring
Events*

Saturday, March 15th 1.00 – 4.00
Celtic Fest in Cloverdale
17710 56A Ave, Surrey
Captivating Celtic Music, dancing,
history and craft presentations.
The Cambrian Circle Singers will
open the schedule of entertainment at
1.00 pm. Be there!

Monday, March 17th at 10.30 am
Welsh Speaking – Siarad Cymraeg
Monday, March 17th at 7.30 pm
Welsh Lessons

Monday, March 24th from 10am to
3pm. Work Party Day. A delicious
lunch will be provided. See you there!

Saturday, March 29th at 7.30
Social Evening Story of Wales
Chili and Dessert

Monday, March 31st at 7.30 pm
Welsh Lessons

Wednesday, April 2nd at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting

Monday, April 7th at 7.30 pm
GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 9th at 12.00 noon
Cambrian Bookworms; the book this
month is *Flight Behaviour* by Barbara
Kingsolver.

Sunday, April 13th at 11 am
Church Service followed by têt bach

Monday, April 14th at 7.30 pm
Welsh Lessons
Monday, April 21st at 10.30 am
Welsh Speaking – Siarad Cymraeg

Saturday, April 26th 10am till 2pm
GRAND SPRING SALE

(see poster)

Volunteers are needed before the Sale
on Wednesday, April 23rd and Friday,
April 25th to price items and to set up
tables from 10.00 am till 3.00 pm
Lunch will be provided!

Volunteers are also needed on the day
of the sale to sell at the tables or assist
in some other capacity and at the end
of the day to help dismantle the stalls
and put everything away.

Members of the Social Committee will
be at the Hall to receive Sale items at
the following times:

Sun. April 13th at the Church Service
Wed, April 16th from 11am till 2 pm

Wed, April 23rd from 10 am till 3 pm

Fri. April 25th from 10 am till 3 pm

Please let us know as early as possible
if you have an item or a service you
wish to offer worth \$25 or more since
we plan to hold a Silent Auction.

Tables will be set up with items or
services on which people can bid
above a minimum level for each item.

Contact Gillian Rogers (604 742-1378)
or Gillian.Rogers@shaw.ca or any
member of the Social Committee to
work out how you can help and when
you are free to volunteer.

Monday April 28th from 10am to 3pm.
Work Party Day. A delicious lunch will
be provided. See you there.

Monday April 28th at 7.30 pm
Welsh Lessons

Wednesday, May 7th at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting

Sunday, May 11th at 11 am
Church Service followed by têt bach

Recent Society Events

Celebration of St. Dwynwen

This year, we celebrated on February 1st, which was a week late; but the spirit remained. David Llewelyn gave a brief introduction to St. Dwynwen and Llanddwyn Island, which he had visited. He then showed a short video entitled *Cariadon* by Ron Davies, which dramatically presented the legend with background views of the Island. He concluded by presenting everyone with a St. Dwynwen's Day card.

We were then entertained by Sharon McIntee Birrell, accompanied by Ruben Federizon, who sang *When the blue of the night* followed by *Serenade* by Schubert to great acclaim. Community singing followed; three Welsh folksongs (*Myfanwy*, *Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn*, *Merch y Melinydd*) with English translations to the accompaniment of Ray Batten.

We paused for delectable desserts lovingly presented by the Social Committee and were issued with two challenging quizzes devised by Eifion Williams. The first had the standard form of 20 questions, the second has 20 love songs and 20 singers to match. To start the second half Eifion provided the solutions and several groups shared the best result of 15/20 whereas Dawn Morris managed 20/20 on the second!

Sharon once again entertained us with a wonderful rendition of my favourite love songs *The Rose*. This was followed by community singing of two more Welsh folksongs (*Y Deryn Pur*, *Ar Lan y Mor*) with English translations accompanied by Ray Batten. Then the Limericks! Twenty entries were received in total,

ten using *There was a young man from Mumbles* as the first line and ten using *There was a young woman from Fflint*. One was submitted in Welsh! I read them all to the amusement of the audience. Notable examples will appear!

We concluded the evening with the showing of another brief video produced by Ron Davies entitled *The Exiled Mind*, which certainly epitomized Hiraeth and tugged at the heartstrings. A very enjoyable celebration, marred only by the weather, which discouraged attendance. The Social Committee should be thanked for their efforts at decoration (hearts abounding!) and the tempting dessert array. Paul Lievesley made the audio-video details work smoothly and Mathew Parry and Heather Davies ran the bar.

Limerick Competition Entries

There once was a woman from Fflint
Who was really, actually a quint
When you asked for a dance
You had a one in five chance
Of getting the one or did'nt

There was a young lady from Fflint
Whose antics caused many hint hint.
She performed on the late shows
While blaming her life's woes
On experiences not fit to print.

Yr oedd menyw ifanc o Fflint
Sy wedi anghofio'i hynt
Yn myned i'r de
Heb wybod y lle
Yr oedd hi yn teithio yn gynt

There was a young woman from Fflint,
Who raced down Snowdon at a sprint,
Cried a young man from Mumbles,
It's my Cariad, she tumbles,
Why couldn't she just take my hint.

There was a young man from Mumbles
Who was partial to hot apple crumbles
Young Mary he wed
For her baking it's said
So the husband stays terribly humble.

There was a young man from Mumbles
Well known for his stumbles and tumbles
But the worst of his fate
Was to hear from each date
Her grumbles, because of his fumbles.

There was a young man from Mumbles,
Who knew stanzas that Dylan had fumbled,
He raged in the night,
But knew it was right,
To go gently that summer, but grumbled.

Here are 7 out of 20 entries to illustrate
the competition! Send me your choice!
The last one is subtle!

Menna Elfyn

We were extraordinarily fortunate that Mathew Parry was able to arrange for a visit by renowned Welsh poet Menna Elfyn on the evening of Monday, February 24. She has published over 20 books of poetry and her poems have been translated into no fewer than 18 languages thereby gaining a world-wide appreciation of Welsh poetry. **Menna Elfyn is one of the most significant poets writing in Wales. Her conspicuous moral and political commitments, international in scope, are always underwritten by her prior commitment to language. Hers is a subtle politics of parable rather than polemic, and a style in which vulnerability is the other face of daring. (M. Wynn Thomas).**

Menna began her recital in the Red Dragon with two poems she had written in memory of R. S. Thomas, one was the

well known Handkerchief Kiss /Cusan Hancys which I have viewed on vimeo. She then read from her latest collection *Murmur*.

Now here is an analysis of *Murmur* by **Georgia Carys Williams: Menna Elfyn has produced yet another collection, which demands respect, a bilingual Poetry Book Society Recommended Translation under the astute eyes of translators. This collation appropriately opens with a quotation from Rilke's Sonnets to Orpheus: Murmur to the quiet earth: I flow, Voice to the running water: I exist. The softness of Rilke's words murmurs a rhythm and tone before we even become aware of the unguarded and instinctive manner through which each poem of Elfyn's will meander. With the unbreakable nature of running water, this collection discerns each pulse of life from the sidelines; it is a river of work that gives way to a stream of pocketed consciousness at the same time as evolving towards a slow acceptance of its inescapable role in such a vista.**

We then paused for a break, remembering especially that Menna had only arrived from the U.K. the day before and was undoubtedly jet lagged. During the break, members bought every copy of her work that Menna had brought, leaving none for the rest of her journey! Such was her impact!

After the break, in recognition of Dylan Thomas' Centenary, Menna spoke about Dylan and then read three of his poems, including *In my Craft and Sullen Art* and the well known *Do not go quietly into that good night*. She concluded by answering questions from the audience. Neville Thomas, one of the founders of

the Dylan Thomas Circle, thanked Menna for her insights and mentioned that they had both attended the same school – though not at the same time!

We are remarkably grateful that it proved possible for Menna to fit us into her schedule. Our thanks also to Antone Minard for looking after Menna and providing transportation for her to and from the Cambrian Hall. A truly inspiring evening!

The St. David's Dinner

Friday evening we held a Dinner in honour of St David catered to their usual high standard by Jordan's International Food Designs. Our Guest of Honour was the Consul General of the United Kingdom, Rupert Potter. We were entertained on the Harp by Clare Morgan who sang several Welsh Folksongs, creating a wonderful atmosphere.



Clare Morgan

Our Secretary, Antone Minard, reviewed the messages we had received from Kindred Societies on St. David's Day and reported on those he had sent out. Kathy Thomas gave the Toast to Canada, Mary Lewis the Toast to St. David and Richard Thomas the Toast to Wales. All three were very well received. The evening concluded with Community Singing, conducted by Lynn Owens-Whalen with Ray Batten on the piano.



Eva and Richard Thomas, Rupert Potter and David Llewelyn Williams

We owe a special debt of gratitude to Gaynor Evans for organizing the dinner and to Gillian Rogers and the Social Committee for arranging such a warm enjoyable event.

Celebrating Celtic Roots; a concert to honour St. David on March 1st

On Saint David's Day we presented a Grand Concert in the Michael J. Fox Centre in Burnaby featuring the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir, the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and soloist Suzann Kingston accompanied by Richard Parton from Opera Pro Cantanti. Under Eifion Williams' direction as M.C., the program began with both choirs and their Alumni Members singing *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*, *O Canada*, and *Gwahoddiad*.

The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir then took the stage conducted by Jonathan Quick and accompanied by David Buchan. After setting the mood with the Rodgers and Hammerstein song, *It's a Grand Night for Singing*, they presented five songs of a Welsh flavor – two Hymns, *All through the Night* (Ar hyd y nos), *The Ash Grove* (Llwtwn Onn) and in tribute to Dylan Thomas' centenary year, *Eli Jenkins Prayer* from *Under Milk Wood* sung by Jonathan Quick. The first half of the program concluded with two arias; one from *Norma* by Bellini and one from *Tosca* by Verdi. Both were

magnificently sung by Susann Kingston to rapturous audience applause.

Susann came back after the intermission to sing two more arias; one from the opera *La Wally* by Catalani and one from *La Forza del Destino* by Verdi. She received a standing ovation. The Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir then took the stage conducted by Liana Savard and accompanied by Barry Yamanouchi. Their selection featured an Irish Air (*The Minstrel Boy*), a Scots classic (the *Skye Boat Song*), a Spiritual (*Go Down, Moses*), a Hymn (*Blow Ye the Trumpet*) and a Latin Hymn (*Piè Jesu*) and ended with the rousing conclusion *We Rise Again*. The Combined Choirs then sang *Calon Lân* and *Myfanwy* with a solo from Suzann.

David Llewelyn Williams the President of the Vancouver Welsh Society, remarked on the remarkable diversity of talent at this concert, a worthy tribute to St. David; he thanked those who had been particularly active to bring this about: Rob Forbes, Alan Sanderson and Brian Hagerman from the Orpheus Choir, John Butterworth and Ashley Dermer from the VWMC and Eifion Williams and Alwyn Rogers from the Welsh Society. He thanked the choirs, their conductors and their accompanists for providing such a musical feast and he thanked Suzann Kingston and Roger Parton for scaling the musical heights for our delight. Finally he thanked the audience for their support of the choirs and the Welsh Society through their presence.

The evening was brought to a close by both choirs singing *Morte Christo* with Suzann Knighton as soloist. A wonderful event, much appreciated by the audience.

WELSHMAN JOHN HUGHES REMEMBERED AS INDUSTRIAL PIONEER IN UKRAINE

Following recent events in Ukraine many political pundits have raised the possibility that the country might split into separate east and west entities. This is based largely on the fact that eastern Ukraine is more industrialized and has a larger proportion of people of ethnic Russian background. One of the largest industrial centres in the east is the city of Donetsk in the Donbas region with a metropolitan area population of 1 1/2 million people. It is a city famous for its steel plants and coal mines.

What is less known about Donetsk is that it was founded by John Hughes, a Welsh industrialist, who was born in Merthyr in 1815. John worked in the Cyfarthfa Ironworks in Merthyr and later took up senior positions in Ebbw Vale and Newport. He was so successful that he eventually became the Director of Millwall Engineering and Shipbuilding in London, gaining a world-wide reputation for building iron-clad ships.

In 1869 John Hughes was invited to Russia by Czar Alexander II to establish an ironworks that would produce rails for the growing Russian rail network. Hughes and a number of ironworkers and miners from South Wales settled in a relatively uninhabited but resource-rich area of Ukraine. The town that grew around Hughes' steelworks was originally called Yuzovka (Hughesovka) and the town prospered in the years before the First World War. Following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, the Welsh workers and their descendants left but the works continued to prosper. John Hughes himself died in 1889.

In 1924 the town was renamed Stalino after Josef Stalin. In 1961 it was renamed Donetsk by the then Soviet dictator Nikita Khrushchev, who grew up in the city. The town suffered excessive damage during the Second World War but has been completely rebuilt. Donetsk is today a city of advanced industry, science and culture. It has received considerable attention during the recent troubles because of its large Russian population and the fact that pro-Russian ex-President Yanukovich is himself a native of Donetsk.

The inhabitants of Donetsk have not forgotten the role John Hughes played in the founding of their city. There are a number of bronze monuments to the industrialist in the city and this year, the 200th anniversary of his birth, there are plans to open a national John Hughes museum. The Ukrainian Parliament has also agreed to issue a commemorative stamp in his honour. Last summer an art exhibition was held in Cardiff to mark John Hughes' contribution to Ukraine. During the event, the Ukrainian ambassador Volodymir Khandogyi said: "John Hughes exported to our country his skills and inspiration – he proved that the technology migrating through political frontiers can bring remarkable positive changes, modernisation and development.

"As you can see, the European integration of Ukraine –in its practical dimension – had begun quite a long time ago with outstanding contribution of such pioneers as John Hughes." Judging by recent events 'the European integration of Ukraine' is still a work in progress.

Eifion Williams

Swansea University confers honorary degree on Grenville Thomas

West Vancouver businessman Gren Thomas, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Engineering by Swansea University. The degree was conferred at a ceremony held in Swansea's Grand Theatre on January 24.



In justifying the award, the university issued the following citation:

"Swansea born Grenville Thomas is one of the most accomplished engineers and foremost discoverers of mineral wealth. After graduating from Cardiff University in 1964 he went to Yellowknife where he founded Aber Diamond Corporation. After his discovery of the Diavik Mine, Canada became the world's third largest diamond exporter. In 2009, Thomas was one of four individuals inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame."

Despite published reports that he was born in Morriston, Gren states that he was actually born in a Neath hospital. The year was 1941 and the Swansea area had been subjected to heavy bombing raids by the Luftwaffe. His mother, originally from Neath, decided to move

back temporarily to give birth and avoid any further bombing. However he still considers Morryston, the place where he spent his formative years, to be his home-town in Wales.

Gren's daughter, Eira, a front-line geologist in her own right, followed Gren's pioneering footsteps, braving the rigours of Canada's north in a quest for diamond-rich territory. Together they have helped propel Canada into a world class diamond producer.

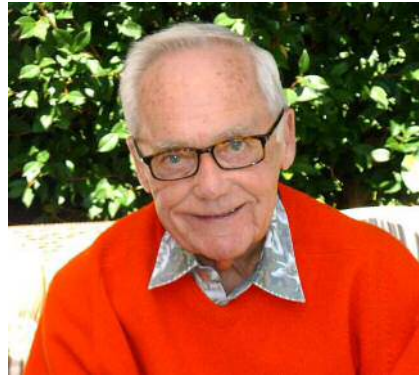
Despite his enormous success, Gren has never forgotten his roots in the Swansea Valley. He returns every year and is very involved in the area's social and cultural issues. On receiving his honorary degree, Gren said "I am very pleased and surprised to receive this award, as most of my work has been outside the country. I believe that much of my success is attributable to my early life experiences and education in Wales and the Swansea Valley area in particular."

Gren is a strong supporter of environmental issues and has recently been involved in the opposition to landowners seeking to build a huge wind power station on the beautiful historic Mynydd y Gwair in north Gower, a mountain over which he would in his childhood roam in Morryston.

Now, semiretired, Gren owns the Red Lion pub in West Vancouver, which is modeled on a popular pub of the same name near his boyhood home. He is a passionate supporter of Canadian Rugby and his strong support of the Vancouver Welsh Society has been recognized by the award of a Life Membership.

Eifion Williams

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR KELM



Arthur Kelm passed away peacefully on January 12 at St. James Hospice in Vancouver, at the age of 81. He was predeceased by his first wife Lorraine and had a long and distinguished career as a Chartered Accountant in Winnipeg.

Art attended school and university in Winnipeg and initially worked with partners Doug Gateson and Harold Neufeld. Over the years they merged several times with other firms and Art eventually ended his career at KPMG. At the celebration of life for Art on February 18 Harold Neufeld praised his late friend and business partner for his meticulous attention to detail as an accountant, a profession that Art loved.

Some years after Lorraine's death, Art married his current wife Mary and after retirement they moved to Vancouver. He will forever be loved and missed by Mary, his three children Brad, Garry (Dawn) and Diana (Phil), his grandchildren Paige, Riley, Nicholas, Serena and Jesse, as well as many other relatives and friends.

The celebration of life for the late Arthur Kelm was held in the beautiful surroundings of Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard St. Vancouver.

The service was conducted by the Very Reverend Peter Elliott, Dean of the Diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church.

Rev. Elliot praised Art for his dedication to Christ Church and for the services he rendered to the Church, especially to its financial affairs. His son Brad and his sister, Eleanor Kelm, both testified to Art's love for his family and expressed special gratitude to Mary for the love and companionship she and Art had shared

Art and Mary spent many happy summers at their cottage in Lake of the Woods, Ontario, and winters in Mexico and Florida. Both were members of the Vancouver Welsh Society, where Mary is an active member of the Society's Social Committee.

In memory of Art a donation in his name to the Vancouver Foundation or the charity of your choice will be appreciated.

Eifion Williams

William (Bill) Robert Hunter



Bill Hunter was a life member of the Vancouver Welsh Society and one of the early members of the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir. Bill's mother was born in Wales and he was incredibly proud of

his Welsh heritage. There are two pictures in the Red Dragon, one of the St David's Day banquet in 1945 and the other in 1946 that Bill inherited from his mother and he in turn 'returned' to the Vancouver Welsh Society.

Bill passed away peacefully, Feb. 12th, 2014 with Karen at his bedside and listening to the music of the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir. Born in North Battleford, Sask. He was the only child of Elizabeth Tydfil Venn-Williams and John Edward Hunter. From his father he learned to be handy and the enjoyment of making things; from his mother he learned how to cook and a love for things Welsh. Bill moved with his parents to Vancouver in time for him to graduate from Grade 13 from King Edward High School in 1945 and went on to earn a B.A. in Science (1949), a B.Ed. (1953) and an M.Ed. (1956), all from UBC. He followed this with 37 years of teaching and administration – 32 of those with the Burnaby School District – 5041.

Bill met Norma in the middle 1950's and they were married on December 27th 1956. Brent was born in 1961 and in advance of the arrival of Karen in November 1962, they moved to 4605 West 6th Avenue where they lived for 51 years. They joined West Point Grey United Church in order to have Brent baptized. Bill served several terms on the WPGUC Board and sang for over 40 years in the choir. Bill was an active Board Member of Greater Vancouver Community Services Society for 20 years. He loved the years of singing and travelling with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir where he served as President and for which he was made an Honorary Life Member in 2006.

D.L.I.W.



Grand Spring Sale

The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue

Saturday, April 26th 10:00am till 2pm

- ❖ Home made baking and preserves
- ❖ Collectibles and China
- ❖ Pre-owned books
- ❖ CD's, DVD's Etc.
- ❖ Linens and Jewellery
- ❖ Children's wear and toys
- ❖ White Elephant
- ❖ Things Welsh
- ❖ Kitchenware
- ❖ Electrical and Electronics

❖ A Silent Auction will be held on the stage.

❖ Refreshments will be served in our Tea Room.

www.WelshSociety.com

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