

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Nadolig

2014

Christmas

2014

Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



Gambler Don and Witch Angela at the bar

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

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

Officers:

President:

David Llewelyn Williams

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Gwilym Evans

Secretary:

Antone Minard

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Membership Secretary:

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Jane Byrne

Directors:

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Patricia Morris

Alcwyn Rogers

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Pat Morris

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Nerys Haqq

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Welsh Learners Group:

Antone Minard

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This brief issue is intended to ensure you are reminded of the many significant events between now and Christmas.

Of paramount importance to the Society is its **Annual General Meeting** which will take place at 7.30 pm in the Red Dragon on Monday, December 8th.

Please note that a **Nominating Committee** was established at the November General Meeting. So, if you wish to consider serving on the new Executive, please contact either or both Irene Evans at 604 274-3794 and Mary Lewis at 604 331-1573.

Other events which demand your attention are the Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14th and the Christmas Dinner, Saturday, December 20th. Please notify Gaynor Evans at 604 271-3134 at your earliest convenience to allow her to plan these events.

Remember to reserve your tickets soon for one of the two performances of "A Child's Christmas in Wales".

My grateful thanks to Angela Smith for all the Noson Lawen Photographs

Let me remind you that St. Dwynwen's Day is January 25 so I anticipate a celebration on the Saturday, Jan. 24th. Limerick titles will be forthcoming!

David Llewelyn Williams

Sadly I must inform you of the recent passing of one of our long time members, Sybil Jamieson. A Celebration of Life will take place at the Jericho Tennis Club between 1.30 and 3.30 tomorrow, Saturday, November 15th.

Recent Events

A tribute to Dylan Thomas

On Saturday, October 19th, in tribute to Dylan Thomas, our Society hosted a remarkably researched presentation of aspects of Dylan's life presented by Russell Roberts. It was entitled *Though I sang through my chains like the sea*, which is the last line of Dylan's youthful poem, *Fern Hill*, named after his aunt's farm where he often spent time in his childhood. We were a very cosy group of about 70 who enjoyed both the ambience of the Red Dragon and the remarkably detailed insights afforded by Russell's presentation. A fitting contribution by our Society to Dylan.

Vancouver Celebration of Wales

Our society's annual Celebration of Wales was held on the weekend of November 1-2, 2014. The opening event was a Noson Lawen (a merry evening) at the Red Dragon. In view of its immediate proximity to October 31st, participants were encouraged to appear in appropriate costumes. Many did, which created a very spirited atmosphere.



Alwyn, Gillian and Beti in costume



Angela and Heather in costume

The evening started on the right note with a rendition of a Welsh folksong by our guest soloist, Nerys Jones, from Seattle, accompanied enthusiastically by Rhuanedd Meilen on the piano. She was followed by Dr. Antone Minard, who gave us a fascinating and learned visual presentation, entitled *Nos Calan Gaeaf* (Halloween). He discussed Welsh and Celtic legends and customs related to the events of the Calendar Year and presented some of the earliest fragmentary evidence. An unique presentation indeed.

After this food for the spirit and the soul, we moved to food for the body – 3 types of pies from The Celtic Treasure Chest supplemented by salads and mouth-watering desserts from the Social Committee.



Our President presented Jane Byrne with a gift and a framed certificate of appreciation, recognizing her many

years of executive service to the society, particularly as its President.



Nerys leading the singing

We had prepared song sheets of 14 Welsh folksongs and after the break Nerys Jones started us off by singing three herself (Y Deryn Pur, Ar Lan y Môr, etc.) and then we indulged in community singing by request. We did all three verses of *Myfanwy* and Hetty Martin and Jane Byrne demonstrated “Penillion Singing” in counterpoint to the melody of *The Ash Grove*. A request for an English song led to Rhuanedd and myself providing the anthem of the Ancient Britons, WOAD, to the tune of “*Men of Harlech*”.



Hetty and Jane (Canu Penillion)

Those of us with energy left, then participated in a Twmpath – country dancing led by Jennifer Parkinson-Dow. All in all, a very spirited and enjoyable evening, which offered something for everyone.

On Sunday morning, our well attended bilingual church service was presided over by Neville Thomas. Scripture readings were given in both Welsh and English as were the hymns. Ray Batten provided the accompaniment,

Nerys Haqq was our soloist and Eifion Williams gave the Sgwrs (Chat). Eifion related the connection between people from his area in Wales who had formed part of the group on the *Mimosa* that sailed to establish the Welsh colony in Patagonia in 1865 – a topic of some interest since the 150th Anniversary of the colony will be celebrated next year in 2015. After our traditional Tê Bach, the Gymanfa Ganu was held in the afternoon. Nerys Jones had stepped into the breach and was not only the soloist but also the conductor! Which tasks she carried out flawlessly, enthusiastically, and memorably.

Alcwyn Rogers and Beti Darvell Jones read the hundredth Psalm, a most appropriate reading for a Gymanfa. After the intermission, your President drew attention to the eight members of our Society who had passed away in the course of the year; he asked for a minute’s silence before the singing of the chosen piece *Gwahoddiad*. Nerys sang several beautiful solos, accompanied by Kimberley-Ann Barzenak in both halves of the program. The accompanist throughout the hymn singing was Ray Batten. The very rewarding Gymanfa concluded with a Benediction by Neville Thomas. Attendees then moved downstairs to another Tê Bach, bringing to a close another great Welsh Weekend.

The Social Committee under Gillian Rogers is to be warmly thanked for arranging such an enriching weekend. We are particularly grateful to Nerys Jones for her willingness to conduct our Gymanfa at short notice.

D.Ll.W.

Forthcoming Events

Monday, November 17th at 10.30 am
Welsh Speaking – Siarad Cymraeg

Thursday, November 20th. at 6:00 pm
Welsh lesson

Saturday, November 22nd at 7:30 pm
Social evening

One of our most popular evenings at the Red Dragon will feature Quizzes by our expert Quizmaster, Eifion Williams. Dessert will be served for your added enjoyment!

Monday, November 24th. from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm
“Deck the Hall”

On this Workparty Day we will be decorating the Red Dragon ready for our Christmas activities. A delicious lunch will be provided and we'll be playing Christmas music. Looking forward to seeing you there. Come and join the fun.

Friday, November 28th at 7.30 pm
Pub Night in the Red Dragon
Open from 7.30 to 11 pm.

Wednesday, Dec. 3rd. at 7:30 pm
Executive Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 4th. at 6:00 pm
Welsh lesson

Monday, December 8th at 7.30 pm
Annual General Meeting

This is of great importance to the future of the Society, please attend, offer your services and vote for next year's Executive.

Wednesday, Dec 10th at 11:30 am
Cambrian Bookworms

Lunch at a different location, contact Jane for details.

Friday, Dec. 12 & Saturday Dec. 13
The Welsh Society sponsors two performances in the Red Dragon of

“A Child's Christmas in Wales” by Dylan Thomas presented by Russell Roberts, Brian Tate, Colleen Winton, Gower and Sayer Roberts.

The doors will be open at 6:45 pm and the performance will start at 7:30 pm. Tickets at \$20.00 available from Neville Thomas at 604 294-4332 nkthomas@shaw.ca Also at 604 742-1378. (see attached poster)

Sunday, December 14th at 11 am
Bilingual Christmas Carol Service
This will be followed by a Tê Bach.

Sunday, December 14th at 2 pm
Children's Christmas Party

Please forward your children's or grandchildren's names and ages to Gaynor Evans (604 271-3134 fgevans@telus.net) by November 14.

Monday, Dec. 15th at 10:30 am
Welsh speaking –Siarad Cymraeg

Thursday, Dec. 18th. at 6:00 pm
Welsh lesson

Saturday, Dec. 20th at 7:00 pm
Christmas Dinner

Catered by Jordan's International Food Designs, we will enjoy a traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. Tickets will be available from Gaynor Evans (604 271-3134 fgevans@telus.net).

Vancouver Welsh Society presents

Dylan Thomas's

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES



**An annual holiday favourite—not to be missed!
Experience this well-loved magical evening which includes
live original music, and your favourite carols.**

featuring

**Russell Roberts, Brian Tate, Colleen Winton,
Gower Roberts & Sayer Roberts**

7:30pm

**FRIDAY, December 12 & SATURDAY, December 13
“Red Dragon” Cambrian Hall-- 215 East 17th Ave **Tickets: \$ 20****

**Tickets: Neville 604-294-4332
nkthomas@shaw.ca or**

www.WelshSociety.com 604-876-2815

