

# THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

*Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver*

*Cambrian News*

*Tonawr  
2010*

*January  
2010*

*Society Newsletter - Pylchgrawn y Gymdeithas*



*Santa with Gaynor Evans at the Children's Christmas Party*

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

## VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

### Officers:

#### **President:**

**John Morris**

#### **Vice-President:**

**Lynn Owens-Whalen**

#### **Secretary:**

**Elizabeth Williams Wallace**

#### **Treasurer:**

**Gaynor Evans**

#### **Membership Secretary:**

**Mark Jones**

#### **Immediate Past President:**

**Jane Byrne**

#### **Directors:**

**Heather Davies**

**Mary Lewis**

**Gethin Owen**

**Alwyn Rogers**

**Eifion Williams**

### Contacts

#### **Building Committee:**

**Lynn Owens-Whalen**

#### **Cambrian Circle Singers:**

**Nerys Haqq**

#### **Church Service:**

**John Cann**

#### **Welsh Speaking Group:**

**Gwilym Evans**

#### **Rentals:**

**Glyn Shepard**

**([Glyndwr@telus.net](mailto:Glyndwr@telus.net))**

#### **Social Events Committee:**

**Gillian Rogers**

**([Gillian.Rogers@shaw.ca](mailto:Gillian.Rogers@shaw.ca))**

#### **Webmaster:**

**Alwyn Rogers**

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#### **Newsletter Editor:**

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(front page photo by Uta Williams)

## *The Cambrian News*

From The Editor:

December was certainly a busy month for the Society! The Annual General Meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> saw the election of the Officers for 2010 with two new names: Elizabeth Wallace agreed to take on the role of Secretary and Mark Jones the role of Membership Secretary. I am sure we will give them our support in their new undertakings.

**January 25<sup>th</sup>** is St. Dwynwen's Day on which day greeting cards in Wales are sent to one's love. Saint Dwynwen and Llanddwyn Island were mentioned in the 2007 January edition and more details of the saint's history were presented at an event last January 30<sup>th</sup>. This year we will celebrate her story on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

President John Morris received the following e-mail from Eifion Thomas:

BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA I CHI, A PHOB  
AELOD O'R GYMDEITHAS GYMRAEG  
ANNWYL SYDD YN VANCOUVER .  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU, AND TO  
EVERY MEMBER OF THE WELSH  
SOCIETY IN VANCOUVER.

Members will note a most informative article in the Vancouver Courier by Lisa Smedman, *A language preserved*, about Welsh immigration. It is also on our website. Our member, Gordon Thomas, grew up in the Welsh community in Bangor, Saskatchewan, settled by the group from Patagonia. I've a copy of the historical book about the community, issued at the Bangor Centennial in 2002.

David Llewelyn Williams

Note the CPR course offered by Mary!

*Forthcoming Events*

Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am  
**Welsh Speaking Group**

Monday January 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am till  
3:30 pm. **Work Party Day**  
All volunteers welcome, lunch will be  
provided.

Friday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm  
**St. Dwynwen's Party**  
A brief introduction to the Welsh Patron  
Saint of Lovers (the Welsh version of St.  
Valentine) will be given by David  
Llewelyn Williams. You may well be  
serenaded by traditional Welsh love  
songs. You are also invited to read a  
verse of your favourite love poem or to  
compose a limerick in English or Welsh  
for our entertainment if you so wish. The  
evening will continue with music and  
dancing. The \$10.00 cover charge will  
include a delicious light supper, a  
mouth-watering desert and a raffle  
ticket. The bar will be open as usual.

Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. at 7:30 pm  
**Executive Meeting**

Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm  
**General Meeting**

Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am  
**Bilingual Church Service** followed by  
a Tê Bach

Monday February 15<sup>th</sup>. at 10:30am  
**Welsh Speaking Group**

Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am  
till 3:30 pm **Work Party Day**

Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**St. David's Day Dinner**

Our annual St. David's Day Dinner will  
be held in the Cambrian Hall. Doors will  
open at 6 pm and dinner will be served  
at 7 pm. The event will be catered by  
Jordans. Program and entertainment  
details will be available later. Tickets  
from Gaynor Evans (604 271-3134).  
Please reserve early.

Monday March 1<sup>st</sup>. (**St. David's Day**)  
Our traditional St. David's Day  
celebration will be held in the Lower  
Hall at 7.30 pm. Cawl Cennin will be  
served. Come along and join in the fun.

Note: the monthly open Lunch at the  
Cambrian will be temporarily on hold  
this spring to allow the committee time  
to plan upcoming events. If members  
would like to join the committee or have  
ideas for activities or events, please get  
in touch.

Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. at 7:30 pm  
**Executive Meeting**

Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am –  
**Bilingual Church Service** followed by  
a Tê Bach.

Monday March 15<sup>th</sup>. at 10:30am  
**Welsh Speaking Group**

Monday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. from 10:00 am till  
3:30 pm. **Work Party Day**

Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>. **Social Event**  
Details will be provided later.

Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>.  
**Second Annual Spring Sale**  
Details will be provided later.

### **The Mulled Wine Evening**

A most convivial and spirited Mulled Wine and Carol Evening on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, started our Christmas celebrations in fine form. Mulled wine, mince pies and other delicacies were made available thanks to the Social Committee. Richard Williams sang for us both an operatic solo and his father's favourite Welsh song. He was accompanied by Barrie Yamanouchi who also accompanied us in our efforts at Carol Singing. John Cann interspersed our singing with two readings from "A Child's Christmas in Wales" and Eifion Williams tested our declining mental abilities with a Quiz. There were two door prizes (a back door and a front door?) and the raffle prize of a Christmas Wall Hanging donated by Heather Davies was won by Lois Palm. Elizabeth Williams Wallace had brought back some Welsh items from her trip to Wales and she and her two daughters ran a stand selling these and also the Society Calendars and Cookbooks to benefit the Society's resources. Elizabeth and Don Murray ran the bar with assistance from Eifion Williams and we thank them all together with the social committee members, Jane Byrne, Heather Davies, Gaynor Evans, Mary Lewis, Pat Morris and Gillian Rogers with assistance from Delyth Cann for making this evening a success. D.L.I.W.

### **Gwasanaeth Carolau / Carol Service**

Our annual Bilingual Christmas Carol Service was held on Sunday morning, December 13<sup>th</sup>. It was arranged by John Cann, who also chaired the proceedings. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones provided the organ accompaniment to the hymns which were sung alternately in Welsh and English. A beautiful solo *a cappella*

was presented by Sharon McIntee Birrell at the midpoint of the program.

Scriptural readings related to Christ's birth were given in Welsh by John Pritchard, Jane Byrne, Anne Jones and Delyth Cann with the corresponding readings in English given by Patricia Morris, Gaynor Evans, Irene Evans and John Cann. After the service, members and guests enjoyed a Tê Bach before rearranging the room in preparation for the Children's Christmas Party in the afternoon. D.L.I.W.

### **The Children's Christmas Party**

On Sunday afternoon, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 18 excited children, parents and doting grand-parents, attended the annual Christmas party with great expectations of a visit from Santa Claus and a surprise gift. At first rather shy, the younger children soon were involved in balloon fights, and games of Musical Chairs and Pass the Parcel. A craft table was set up and many, including some mums, were busy threading beads to make a Christmas tree ornament.



At around three o'clock, the children were sitting quietly (is that possible?) singing Christmas carols when Santa made his loud and joyful entrance with his 'Ho, Ho, Ho'. One by one they were called to Santa's chair and received a special message from the jolly man, together with a small gift. Santa

entertained the children with his magic touch which had them all entranced.



He also spread the Christmas spirit to the adult members present!



Once the wrapping paper had been torn off and gifts inspected, hot dogs, apple juice and ice-cream were soon devoured. To end a successful afternoon, everyone was invited to ice and decorate a gingerbread Christmas tree. One by one, the families left with hands full of balloons and goodie bags.

Thanks to the following for their help in making the afternoon a happy event for the children: Andrea, Paula, Katrina, Mary, Jane, Angelo, Brian and Trevor. Thanks Karen (Granville) for staying behind to help clean up at the end of the day. If I missed your name..."sorry". A humungous "THANK YOU" to the Big Guy for taking the time out of his busy schedule to pay us a visit. See you all next year!!

Gaynor Evans

(photos by Uta Williams)

### Annual Christmas Dinner

The Society's annual Christmas dinner was held on Saturday, December 19 with 65 members and guests in attendance.



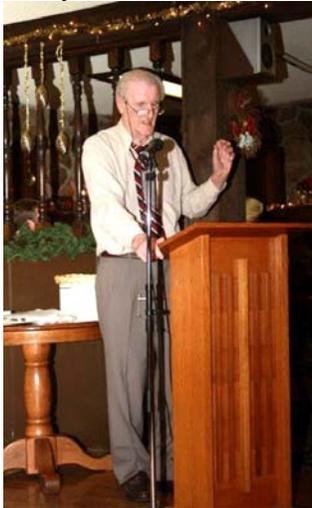
We were very pleased to welcome eight members from the Royal Society of Saint George, who had asked to join us for this event. Tim Jordan, as always, served us a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, roasted vegetables and all the usual trimmings. A huge fruit plate adorned the dessert table, and trifle, mince tarts, bara brith and other Christmas goodies were enjoyed by all, courtesy of the social committee ladies. Jane Byrne thanked Tim and his staff.



Sharon McIntee Birrell led the traditional carol singing, with Bea Buchanan on piano. Thanks go to Mer Montador who manned the bar, and to all who helped out with the decorations and finally the clean up.

Gaynor Evans  
(photos thanks to the St. George group)

After a satisfying meal, we were entertained by a Christmas reading from John Pritchard. "Come share the Bird" was a funny little poem and related to how we all feel after eating left over turkey for days on end.



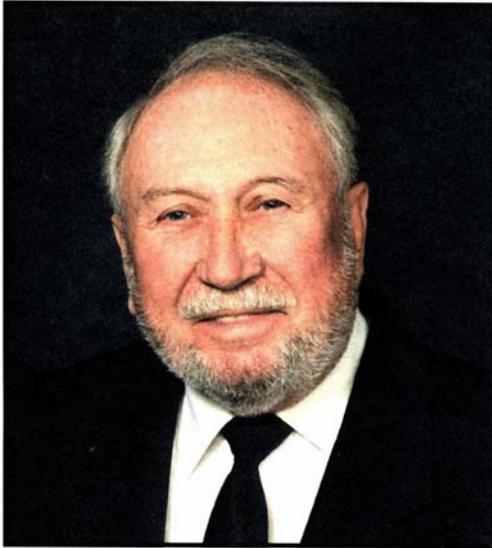
Lynn Owens-Whalen read the "The Night before Christmas" and Jane Byrne entertained us with a reading of "A Scarborough Christmas".



**First Aid Anyone?**  
St. John's Ambulance are offering a course in first-aid which includes C.P.R. level A (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) It deals with choking & the unconscious patient, which could be due to many things such as fainting or Diabetic Coma It also suggests adding AED (Automatic external defibrillation) to the list. This last has been taught to all major office staff and in the Malls, and they all have defibrillators in their first-aid kits. They would come to the Cambrian Hall but need a DVD player and a TV with a working remote to present. We could also go to their place at 6111 Cambie St. at 45<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$39 per person for a half day course which gives certification. If this seems too much, they can provide a two hour talk with no hands-on experience. Anyone interested please call me at 604-331-1573 or e-mail me at [Lewiselm@shaw.ca](mailto:Lewiselm@shaw.ca)

Mary Lewis

**In memory of Tecwyn Roberts**  
December 7, 1929 – November 21, 2009



Tecwyn, a long time member and former President of our Society, passed away on November 21<sup>st</sup> after a lengthy illness. A Funeral Service was held on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at All Saints Catholic Church in Coquitlam. Our Society was well represented. At the Gathering which followed at the Church Hall we heard moving tributes by Tecwyn's family including his many grandchildren. John Pritchard spoke of his personal friend of forty five years; a proud son of Wales: I quote some of his reminiscences

“Tecwyn was a long-standing member of the society, who served on the Executive and also as President. During his term as President the roof fell in!! This was so literally and not metaphorically. An accumulation of snow cracked the rafters of the Cambrian Hall. With a steady hand at the helm, Tecwyn led us through the damage appraisal, the insurance jungle and the repair of our beloved building. He was a veritable tower of strength at a dark period in our history. 'Roedd yn gawr o arweinydd.

Tecwyn was an avid golfer and for many years organized the Welsh Society's annual golf tournament. The event was always lots of fun.

[Editor's note: Not only did Tecwyn organize the tournament, even when he was no longer able to play, he also personally provided many of the prizes.]

LLinos and I were invited to Deirdre and Tecwyn's 50th wedding anniversary celebration. All the children and grandchildren were there. It was a beautiful affair and demonstrated to us the love Tecwyn had for them all - and as well how his love was reciprocated. Noson i'w chofio yn wir. A memorable evening indeed!

Tecwyn was raised in the town of LLanrwst in North Wales. He was educated at the local Grammar School. One of his teachers influenced him greatly-and taught him to write prose with flair and impeccable grammar. After retirement Tecwyn put his skills to good use by reading the National Post and making a career of writing letters to the editor. His expertise in the realm of gerunds, unattached participles and split infinitives was phenomenal-and the editors became regular targets of his opprobrium. His ripostes were legendary. Those editors must have trembled when they received a letter signed by one Tecwyn Roberts!! He often trumpeted his disdain for political correctness and with pithy aphorisms he crucified those guilty parties - especially those that were left of centre. Tecwyn would indeed have made a fine journalist and would have called a spade a spade with grammatical excellence”

[Editor's note: At one point I had the temerity to insert a few commas into an article Tecwyn had submitted to the

Newsletter. I received a note observing that I had ‘liberally sprinkled’ his article with commas and that his Grammar School English teacher had insisted that conjunctions did not require commas]

Tecwyn was born in Llanrwst, North Wales. In his youth he became an avid sportsman; playing cricket, rugby, field hockey, soccer, and climbing mountains in Snowdonia with childhood friends. From 1948 to 1950 he served with the British forces in Malaya as part of his National Service. Returning from Asia, he joined the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China in London, where he met the love of his life, Deirdre.

When Tecwyn transferred to Ottawa with the Bank of Nova Scotia, Deirdre followed soon afterwards and they were married at St. Patrick’s Church in Ottawa on October 20, 1956. They moved to Montreal and Winnipeg, where Nicholas and Catherine were born and then to Vancouver where Jennifer and Chris were born, settling in Coquitlam, where they have lived for 44 years.

Tecwyn had a lengthy and distinguished career in banking, eventually retiring from the National Bank of Canada in 1996. In his retirement, Tec liked reading his newspapers, keeping up with politics, watching sports, gardening, golfing, and planning trips to take with Deirdre all over the world. One of his greatest joys was being grandfather to Richard, Frances, Patrick, Evan, Lucas, Alex, Hunter, Vaughn and Blake. We in the Welsh Society remember his active participation in society affairs and events and in particular his regular attendance at the Sunday service where he loved to sing Welsh hymns and most of all to speak Welsh with his friends. We extend

our sympathy to Deirdre, his wife of 53 years, their children and grandchildren.

**Congratulations to the Welsh Society**  
(A letter in The Celtic Connection)

I want to congratulate the Welsh community on their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vancouver’s Cambrian Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Main Street.

Having the opportunity to grow up on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue along with many other Irish families such as the O’Tooles, Evistons, Peakes, Colls, Douglas and Moores, the Cambrian Hall has a special place in the Vancouver-Irish heart and memory. As a child, I would often look upon the 10 names of the Welsh immigrants and admire the long ago date of 1929 on the cornerstone of the building.

The “Welsh” Hall, as we sometimes called it, has also been a gathering place for a number of our Irish organizations and societies for over 60 years. The proximity to St. Patrick’s Parish down on 12<sup>th</sup> and Main made it an attractive place for the community to gather. In the history of the Vancouver Irish community, many annual general meetings, regular general meetings, anniversary dinner/dances, darts tournaments, Christmas and Halloween parties, day long St. Patrick’s Day festivities, post game Gaelic football and hurling celebrations, concerts, theatre plays, christenings, wakes, ... you name it – were all held at the Cambrian Hall.

The Irish were very welcome at more than favourable rates for years on end. Though there might have been the odd complaint about Guinness-sticky floors, there seemed to be a mutual respect between the two respective Celtic communities.

In the 1950s the Vancouver Irish Society met on the first Thursday of each month at the hall and as a member of the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club that was formed in 1974, I can attest that many years of the club's successes were due to the availability of the hall for numerous occasions. The Red Dragon Pub, beneath the hall, proved to be a popular spot for a number of competitive darts tournaments with the Welsh often prevailing over the Irish.

God bless your 'founders' and the 2010 executive and members of Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver! Your success over these last 80 years serves as a template for those in the Irish community who are diligently working towards our own Irish centre in Langley, B.C.

John O'Flynn  
North Vancouver, B.C.

**Fron Choir's leader bows out at the top** (from the Wrexham Leader, thanks to Eric Davies)

The woman behind the worldwide success of the Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir is moving on to pastures new. Ann Atkinson, a talented mezzo-soprano, is looking forward to focusing more on her solo singing career. "It's been an amazing journey. When I took over the choir nine years ago, my aim was just to ensure that everyone enjoyed themselves and enjoyed their singing. I had no idea that I would find myself conducting them at the Classical BRIT awards, making a single with Rolf Harris or singing with them on four CDs!"

Ann admits the experience has been unreal at times and something she could have never imagined when she started out in the music business. She won a

scholarship to train at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and while she was there won several other awards. On top of that she has won a string of top competition prizes including firsts at the National Eisteddfod and Llangollen International Eisteddfod. Ann went straight from the Academy to the Scottish National Opera; she sang at Glyndebourne for four years and also sang at Sydney Opera House.



**At Talacre Beach near Prestatyn**

So why did she decide to step down while the choir's reputation was soaring? Ann explained: "I'm a singer as well as a conductor and I'd like to concentrate a little more on my own solo career. Being the choir's soloist has been great but it can be a hard evening when you've 60 men to worry about as well as yourself." Ann will continue as conductor of Côr Meibion Bro Glyndwr, based on Corwen, where she lives, and is artistic director of the North Wales International Music Festival staged each September in St. Asaph. Earlier this year when the National Eisteddfod was in Bala, Ann was inducted into the Bardic Circle. She also chairs the music committee for the 2011 Wrexham National Eisteddfod.

*Annual Membership Renewals*

Name:.....

Address:.....

City:.....Postal Code: .....

Phone No.....

e-mail.....

It would be very helpful if you would indicate whether you wish to receive a copy of the Newsletter by mail or if you are content to view the Newsletter on the website. You will then be notified by e-mail when the latest edition appears on the site.

I wish to receive a copy of the Newsletter by mail (YES or NO).....

Membership Dues for 2010: Regular: \$45

Family (Member, Spouse & Children to 18): \$70

Seniors/Students: \$30

Out of Town (50 miles or more): \$20

Additional sums as donations, especially to the building renovation fund, are welcomed!

Cheques or Money Orders should be made payable to

**“THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER”.**

Send your renewals to: **Mark Jones, Membership Secretary, Cambrian Hall,  
215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver B.C., V5V 1A6**

*St. Dwynwen's Prayer*

O Blessed St. Dwynwen, you who knew pain and peace, division and reconciliation, you have promised to aid lovers and you watch over those whose hearts have been broken. As you received three boons from an Angel, intercede for me to receive three blessings; to obtain my heart's desire *{here you may name the person}* or, if that is not God's Will, a speedy healing from my pain; your guidance and assistance, that I may find love with the right person, at the right time, and in the right way; and an unshakeable faith in the boundless kindness and wisdom of God.

And this I ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.