

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Cymdeithas Gymreig Vancouver

Cambrian News

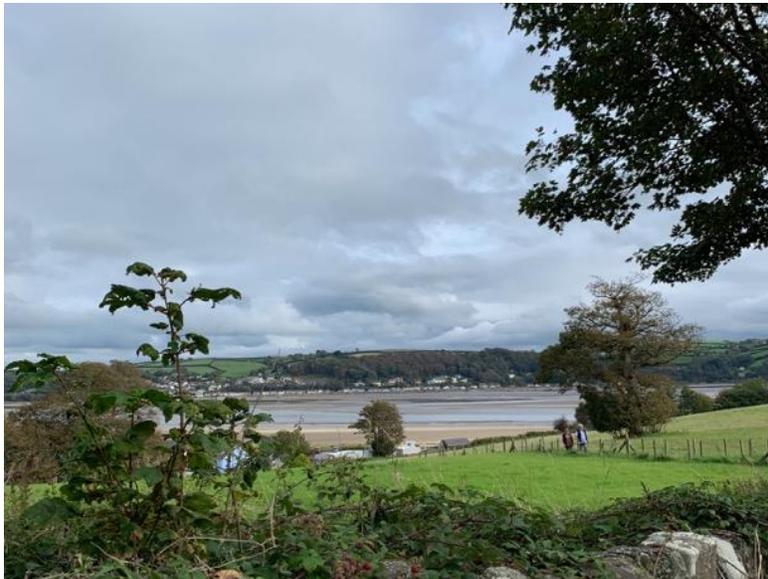
Ionawr

January

2020

2020

Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



A View of the Tywi Estuary from the path to the village of Llansteffan, South Wales

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

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

Officers:

President:

Lynn Owens-Whalen

Vice-President

Paul Lievesley

Secretary:

to be announced

Treasurer:

Wynford Owen

Membership Secretary:

Jackie Chapman

Immediate Past President:

David Llewelyn Williams

Directors:

Jane Byrne

Johanna Hickey

Jacqueline Little

Patricia Morris

Kathy Thomas

Contacts:

Building Committee:

Paul Lievesley

Church Service:

Various

Welsh Speaking Group:

Roy Beavon

Rentals:

Alcwyn Rogers

Wynford Owen

Social Events Committee:

Kathy Thomas (Coordinator)

Gaynor Evans (Secretary)

www.welshsociety.com

Webmaster:

Alcwyn Rogers

Newsletter Editor:

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Cambrian Hall 604-876-2815

The Cambrian News

From the Editor:

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

At the start of the New Year, we look back on a very eventful 2019, with its wonderful 90th anniversary celebrations, and forward to many exciting events for 2020 already in their planning stages.

To start the year off, join us in the Red Dragon for a pub night on 3 January and, on 25 January at 2:00 pm, come down for the traditional celebration of St. Dwynwen, the Welsh Saint of Lovers that includes the hilarious annual limerick competition.

For details of Society events and the regular meetings of the Society's various groups, please see the "Forthcoming" and "Typical Monthly Events" Sections. Note that many events are now scheduled for the afternoon, as many members no longer want to return home in the dark on wintery nights. In the Photo Gallery, you'll find photographs of the events of the last few months, including the 90th anniversary celebrations and the Society Children's Christmas party.

Enjoy, too, Eifion Williams' fascinating account of how he came across an old school photograph that will be of interest to members who remember Ieuan Lampshire-Jones, a long-time and very active member of the Society who passed away several years ago.

We very much enjoy hearing from members, especially those who have retired and perhaps moved away. Please continue to send us your photos and anecdotes.

Ruth Baldwin
Dysgwrcymraeg375@gmail.com

Forthcoming Events

Please note there may be date and time changes from time to time, so it's best to check the monthly page on the website before attending events.

Welsh Language Classes

Welsh classes take place on Thursday evenings in the Red Dragon from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The schedule varies from time to time. To see the complete schedule, please click [here](#).

Pub Night . . . and more

Friday 3 January at 7:00 pm. Pub night and more! This evening the bar will be open and you'll be able to build up a thirst by first taking down and storing the Christmas decorations. So, yes, it is the 2019 de-decking task followed by or accompanied by some refreshments.

Executive Meeting

Monday 6 January at 7:30 pm in the Red Dragon.

Cambrian Bookworms

Wednesday 8 January at 12 noon. The book this month is TBD.

Bilingual Service

Sunday 12 January at 11.00 am in the Red Dragon, followed by *tê bach* (light refreshments).

Genealogy Group

Wednesday 15 January at 10:30 am in the Red Dragon.

Welsh Speaking Group

Monday 20 January at 10:30 am.

St Dwynwen's Day

Saturday 25 January
at 2:00 pm

our traditional celebration of St Dwynwen, the Welsh Saint of Lovers, will take place. A brief history of her life and her church will be followed by romantic songs and videos, humorous recitations and delectable desserts. To further enhance the levity of the event, it will also feature the **Annual Limerick Challenge**. This year, the two locations will be **Mold** (in North Wales) and **Wyk** (in South Wales). Thus, the limerick will read:

“There was a young/old man/woman from
Mold/Wyk . . .”
“There was a young boy/girl from
Mold/Wyk . . .”

Work Party Day

Monday 27 January from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. A delicious lunch will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Typical Monthly Events

Everyone is invited to join us at these events but please note there may be changes from time to time, so it's best to check the monthly page on the website before attending. For further information please contact mail@welshsociety.com.

Sundays: 2nd Sunday of the month: Bilingual Church Service. The exception is November when the service is on the Sunday of the Welsh weekend.

Mondays: 1st Monday of the month for Board Members only: Executive Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Mondays: 3rd Monday of the month:
The Welsh speaking group meets at
10:30 am.

Mondays: 4th Monday of the month:
Volunteer working party: 10:00 am until
3:30 pm.

Wednesdays: 2nd Wednesday of the
month: The Book Club meets at 12:00
noon.

Wednesdays: 3rd Wednesday of the
month: The Genealogy Group meets from
10:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Red Dragon.

Thursdays: Welsh Language lessons: The
schedule varies and details are shown [here](#).

General Meetings: The dates of the General
Meetings will be decided upon by the
executive. The **AGM** for year #1 is held in
February of year #2, e.g. the 2019 AGM will
be held in February 2020.

Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir

Saturday 4 April at West Vancouver
United Church. This will be a joint concert
and the choir will share the stage with the
Pacific Spirit Children's Choir.

Saturday 2 May at Shaughnessy United
Church in Vancouver. This will be a joint
concert and the choir will share the stage
with the BC Boy's Choir.

The Spring program will culminate in a tour
of the Maritimes from **14 to 27 May**.
Please visit the choir's website for further
details of upcoming concerts and events:
<http://vancouverorpheus.org>

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Saturday 14 March, Celtic Fest at
Vancouver Christchurch Cathedral at 7:30
pm.

Tuesday 17 March, Celtic Traditions with
the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir at 7:30
pm at The Act Arts Centre, Maple Ridge.
Please visit the choir's website for further
details of upcoming concerts and events:
<https://vwmc.ca>



Pay your dues, folks!

Annual membership runs from January to
December. You can renew on-line or by
cash, cheque, eTransfer
(bmo@welshsociety.com) or money order.

Regular membership	\$35
Family membership	\$70
Seniors	\$35
Students	\$20
Out-of-towners	\$20

Cheques or money orders should be made
out to "THE WELSH SOCIETY OF
VANCOUVER" and mailed to:

Jackie Chapman,
Membership Secretary,
Cambrian Hall,
215 East 17th Avenue
Vancouver BC
V5V 1A6

From Eifion Williams:

While I was visiting my sister in
Wales during the summer, I met an elderly
gentleman who was born in Aberarth,
Ceredigion. I told him I was living in

Vancouver so he asked me if I knew an old school friend of his who was also born in Aberarth and was now rumoured to be living in Vancouver. He was referring to long-time Welsh Society member **Ieuan Lampshire-Jones**. He was astonished when I told him that I had been very friendly with Ieuan and had written articles on his life and career, including writing his obituary and giving the eulogy at his funeral. I subsequently sent him some of the articles I had written on Ieuan which hopefully would reveal some of the love and respect in which he was held by Welsh Society members and by the shipping organisations he led and worked for. Ieuan was a popular and respected member of the Society for many years.

This elderly gentleman, whose name is **Huw**, was very pleased with the information on his old friend. He sent the attached picture of pupils at Aberarth Primary School in 1927 to my sister Mair, who sent it on to me. Ieuan is pictured in the second row, fifth from the left. Huw is third from the left in the same row. It would be interesting to see how many of his old friends can pick out four year old Ieuan in the picture!



Aberarth Primary school: c1927

Thank you, **Gaynor Evans**, for bringing the following interesting article to our attention:

Ffordd Pen Llech road in Wales named 'world's steepest street'

Locals from the sleepy town of Harlech, Wales, celebrated as they were awarded the rather niche accolade of having the "world's steepest street" Tuesday, with the honor going to Ffordd Pen Llech road.

The previous record holder was Baldwin Street in Dunedine, New Zealand, but after an extensive campaign by Harlech locals, [Guinness World Records](#) officially recognized Ffordd Pen Llech as the world's steepest street.

An independent surveyor concluded that the street's gradient was 37.45% on June 6 this year, which beat Baldwin Street's gradient of just 35%. In order to qualify for the prestigious record, the street must be "a public thoroughfare, fully paved and contain buildings running alongside the thoroughfare," according to [Guinness World Records](#).

Harlech resident Gwyn Headley, who led the campaign for Ffordd Pen Llech to be recognized, said he felt "utter relief" to have finally won out. The town of Harlech in North Wales is now home to the world's steepest street. "And jubilation!" he added, according to a press release. "Guinness World Records were ultra-specific in the criteria they demanded for Ffordd Pen Llech to qualify as the steepest street in the world, and although we were confident in meeting or exceeding nine of them, I was worried about the 10th. I feel sorry for Baldwin Street and the New Zealanders — but steeper is steeper."

Another local resident, Sarah Badham, who runs the town's Facebook page, said she realized Gwyn "was onto something" when he posted in the group suggesting the street may be the world's steepest. "[I] decided to get behind him as did the whole community," she said, [according to a Guinness World](#)

[Records release](#). "As somebody who was born and raised here, I can't really say how special it is. It's amazing."

And Craig Glenday, the editor-in-chief of Guinness World Records, praised the intrepid spirit of the locals who did not give up on their dream. "The local community in Harlech has shown sheer will-power in their quest to earn Ffordd Pen Llech the title," he said when announcing the award, per the records. "We know the anticipation has been building for quite some time now and I'm pleased to see the outcome has brought such joy to the residents. I hope Harlech enjoys the celebrations and that the new title brings lots of people to the beautiful town, to experience the world's steepest street for themselves!"

For the full article, please visit:

<https://abcnews.go.com/amp/International/ffordd-pen-llech-road-wales-named-worlds-steepest/story?id=64360031>

Celtic harpist and singer, Leanne Page, who entertained us at the St David's Day dinner and at the 90th Anniversary concert, has sent this photo from a recent trip:



It shows the harpist on the Dupplin Cross, a monumental carved pictish stone, from circa 800 AD

Photo Gallery of Recent Society Events

Bridges Festival at Ambleside Friday 31 May



At a two-day multicultural event celebrating BC's cultural diversity at Ambleside in June, members reach out to the community.

The Annual Garden Party Saturday 24 August





The 90th Anniversary Celebrations
4, 5 and 6 October



Society members formed a welcome reception at YVR for tenor Samuel Wyn-Morris, who came from Wales to sing for us.



Noson Lawen
4 October

The Anniversary Dinner
Saturday 28 September



Liz Murray, with Lynn Owens-Whalen,
cuts the anniversary cake



Sam Wyn-Morris and Nerys Jones sang



Russell Roberts read for us



and **Emyr Honeybun** provided the accompaniment



Jackie Jones Chapman and **Alwyn Rogers** delighted us with a duet

**A Welsh Celebration Concert
for the 90th Anniversary of the Cambrian
Hall
Saturday 5 October**



The Cambrian Cuties sang “Hymns and Arias”

The concert was held at West Point Grey United Church in collaboration with the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir, directed by artistic director **Liana Savard**. Soloists **Samuel Wyn-Morris** (tenor) from Wales, **Nerys Jones** (mezzo-soprano) originally from Wales and now living in Seattle, and **Leanne Page**, Celtic harpist, accompanied by her son, **Connor**, were the soloists.



At the end of the concert, **Eric Davies**, a member of both the Society and the Orpheus Choir, movingly sang “We’ll Keep a Welcome in the Hillside.”

The Gamanfa Ganu
Sunday 6 October



The Gymanfa was conducted by Orpheus Artistic Director **Liana Savard**, with **Barry Yamanouchi** as accompanist.



Solos were sung by our guests **Nerys Jones** and **Sam Wyn-Morris**

Welsh Society Twmpath
Saturday 19 October



The Rattlebone Band played and the dancers kicked up their heels

Pub Night and Mari Lwyd
Saturday 26 October

Antone Minard, specialist in folklore and Celtic studies and instructor for the Society’s Welsh language classes, organized the first VWS staging last year of the Mari Lwyd, a folk custom found in South Wales. This year, the Mari Lwyd was back, to popular acclaim. Member **Steve Crowley** created the Mari Lwyd head and costume for the Society. In the three photographs below, the Mari Lwyd and her cohorts request admission to the Red Dragon in song, the Occupants of the Red Dragon resist

vociferously, but, inevitably, the Mari Lwyd is allowed into the hall, and much merriment ensues!



To see a video of last year's Mari Lwyd enactment at the Red Dragon, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6kkMI-ZTvo>

For the Mari Lwyd song performed by member **Graham Baldwin** at the Red Dragon, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYJbnoTU6yk>

Pub Night and Mulled Wine Evening

Saturday 7 December

Members enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and an evening of carols accompanied by **Emyr Honeybun** on the piano.



Children's Christmas Party

Sunday 8 December

Gaynor Evans and her daughters again organized a wonderful party for members' children and grandchildren, with a scrumptious tea . . .



games . . .



... and a visit with Santa for kids small ...



... and large(er)!

Christmas Dinner
Saturday 14 December



Jackie Jones Chapman sang a hilarious version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”



and a duet with **Sharon McIntee Birrell**



This beautiful Christmas table runner was made and donated by member **Heather Davies** and given as door prize



The meal was catered by Granville Island Catering Company. The delicious desserts that member **Paul Lievesley** is seen here sampling, were provided by members of the Social Committee.

Obituaries

Margaret Elizabeth Darvell (Née Jones) 14 February 1930 – 14 August 2019

Beti (“Beti Bach”) was born in Plaistow, East London and was very proud of her Cockney/Welsh heritage. Her parents were Jack and Elizabeth (née Lloyd) Jones.

Beti took up cycling in 1984 as a form of therapy, but later fell in love with the sport. She was a member of the Cross Canada Cycling Society and devoted much of her time volunteering for the cause. She rode the width of Canada and the US and the length of Britain, as well as undertaking many other long trips.

Beti was a proud member and volunteer at the Vancouver Welsh Society for ten years, where she made many friends. She will be greatly missed by all.

Mary Slaney (Née Harris) 22 January 1939 – 18 September 2019

Mary was born in Maesteg, South Wales. In 1977 she, her husband and their children, Annelise and Ian moved to Canada. After a few chilly months in Calgary, they moved to Vancouver.

Mary lost her husband in 1991 to cancer and, widowed at only 52, Mary spent

her time connecting with friends and family, caring for her animals, gardening and travelling. For the last ten or so years of her life, she lived with her son, Ian, and his son Nick, most recently at Harrison Lake.

Mary took a keen interest in her Welsh heritage and was active in the Welsh Society for many years. At one time Mary was one of the Society directors.

Lorraine Jordan

Welsh Society members were very sad to learn of the passing of Lorraine Jordan on 25 September 2019. Owner of Jordan’s International Food Designs with her husband, Tim, Lorraine prepared many wonderful festive banquets for Society events. The photograph, below, shows Lorraine and Tim on their last visit together to the Red Dragon. Tim had just retired and he and Lorraine were honoured guests at the 2018 Christmas dinner. **President Lynn Owens-Whalen** thanked Tim and Lorraine for all the delicious meals they had prepared for the Society over many, many years.



The Vancouver Welsh Society Newsletter is issued three times a year, in January, May and September.