

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER
Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Mawrth
2012

March
2012

Society Newsletter – Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



Work Group at St. David's Dinner

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

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

Officers:

President:

Jane Byrne

Vice-President:

Nant Roberts

Secretary:

Eifion Williams

mail@welshsociety.com

Treasurer:

Gaynor Evans

Membership Secretary:

Alcwyn Rogers

Immediate Past President:

John Morris

Directors:

Heather Davies

Gwyn Evans

Antone Minard

(Recording Secretary)

Gethin Owen

Mary Lewis

Contacts

Building Committee:

John Morris

Cambrian Circle Singers:

Nerys Haqq

Church Service:

John Pritchard

Rentals:

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Welsh Learners Group:

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

Once again, Eifion Williams has been a major contributor to the newsletter. The photographs of the St. David's Day event were by Martin Gouldthorpe and those of the Dinner and the front page were taken by Eifion's daughter, Anne.

I am particularly grateful to Gwenno Dafydd for sending me her performance of *Cenwch y Clychau i Dewi* which Paul Lievesley recorded for St. David's Day.

I thought it might be of interest to record that when Uta and I met in the Acadia Camp dining room in late 1960 and early 1961, two prominent members of the Welsh Society, John Pritchard and Jane Williams (now Byrne), were part of our group. In fact John served as my 'best man' at our civil ceremony in Vancouver prior to a Church ceremony in Hamburg.

Please notice the Spring Sale, encourage your friends to attend, and donate your time, your sale or service items to make this event a resounding success. Remember that refreshments will be served downstairs in the Red Dragon!

For those of you who have yet to paid your membership dues for 2012, please send your cheques, payable to The Welsh Society of Vancouver, to our Membership Secretary, Alcwyn Rogers, at the Cambrian Hall.

David Llewelyn Williams

The Ontario Welsh Festival will be held at Niagara Falls, April 27-29, 2012. For details see www.ontariowelshfestival.ca

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday, March 14th at 12 noon
The Cambrian Bookworms will discuss "The Horse Boy" by Rupert Isaacson.

Monday, March 19th at 10:30 am
Welsh speaking – Siarad Cymraeg
Welsh Lessons at 7.30 pm

Monday, March 26th, 10:00 am till 3:00. Work Party Day A delicious home made lunch will be provided.

Sunday, April 1st at 11:00 am Bilingual Church Service
This will be followed by a Tê Bach

Sunday, April 1st 1.00 to 4.00 pm
Celebration of Uta's Life
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

Monday, April 2nd at 7.30 pm
Welsh Lessons

Wednesday, April 4th at 7:30 pm
Executive Meeting

Monday, April 9th at 7.30 pm
GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 11th at 12 noon
The Cambrian Bookworms will discuss "One Day" by David Nichols.

Friday, April 13th from 10 am to 3 pm
Set up for the **Grand Spring Sale**.
Lunch will be provided to all volunteers.

Monday, April 16th at 10:30 am
Welsh speaking - Siarad Cymraeg
Welsh Lessons at 7.30 pm

Monday, April 23rd, 10 am till 3 pm.
Work Party Day A delicious home made lunch will be provided

Grand Spring Sale

Saturday, April 14th
10.00 am till 2.00 pm

In recent years this has been the most successful fundraiser for the society and, with your help, this will be the best yet. Spread the word amongst your friends! The stalls will include:

Home made baking and preserves,
China

Collectibles

Pre-owned Books,
CD's, DVD's and Videos,

Kitchenware,

Linens and Jewelry,

"White Elephant",

Children's Wear and Toys,

"Things Welsh",

Electrical and Electronics.

Volunteers are needed:

before the Sale on April 11th and 13th to price items and set up tables

on the day of the Sale to sell at the tables or assist in some other capacity **at the end of the day** to help dismantle the stalls and put things away

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

Sunday, April 1st at the Church Service
Monday, April 9th at 7 pm prior to the General Meeting

Wednesday, April 11th 10 am to 3 pm

Friday, April 13th from 10 am to 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**. Silent Auction Tables will be set up with items or services on which people can bid above a minimum level for each offering.

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

Celebrating our Patron Saint,
Dewi Sant – St. David

Our Society celebrated St. David's Day with an Open House in the Red Dragon at the Cambrian Hall. Past President, John Morris, presided. The evening began with the audience singing the nostalgic "My Little Welsh Home", followed by Gwilym Evans and Lynn Owens-Whalen reading the poem by Eifion Wyn, *Os Wyt Gymro* and a translation (If you are a Welshman).



Eifion Williams entertained us by recounting several of the known facts and legends surrounding Dewi Sant. David Llewelyn Williams then read the English words to the song, "*Cenwch y Clychau i Dewi*" (Ring out the Bells for St. David) followed by a recorded version in Welsh, most ably sung by the song's creator, Gweno Dafydd.



Heather Davies, Mary Lewis and Pat Morris, all suitably attired in Welsh costume, distributed leeks to the audience. In what has become somewhat of a tradition at the Annual Open House, a drum roll by Paul Lievesley heralded the appearance of two members of the

'Druidic Circle', this year represented by Archdderwydd John Pritchard and Derwydd Dafydd o Brestatyn.



The 'Archdruid' repeated three times the familiar call for peace: *A oes heddwch?*, each time the audience responded with a resounding *Heddwch!* (Peace!).



The Archdruid called for a Toast to St. David to accompany the ceremonial Eating of the Leek. We sang *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* before enjoying Cawl Cenin (traditional Leek Soup). Rhuanedd Meilen, our accompanist throughout the evening, provided a Musical Interlude while we feasted, before we once more sang some classic Welsh songs. Her lively piano numbers contributed much to our enjoyment of the evening. In his closing remarks, John Morris thanked all the evening's participants

and especially the hardworking members of the Social Committee who had made the evening so enjoyable. We closed with another nostalgic song "*We'll keep a Welcome.*"

St. David's Dinner

The St. David's Dinner on Saturday, March 3rd was a more formal affair with a delicious buffet catered once again by Jordan's of Richmond. President Jane Byrne presided. The Blessing was given by Gaynor Evans in Welsh and Gwyn Evans in English.

It is a tradition at the Dinner to convey messages of greeting from Kindred societies and individuals from across the world. This year, our Secretary, Eifion Williams, read out messages from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, England, Ireland and Wales. Among those sending greetings to our Society were Carwyn Jones, First Minister for Wales, the Mayors of Cardiff and Aberystwyth, London Welsh Association President, Huw Edwards and BC Premier, Christy Clark.



Harpist-Composer Patricia Sereno provided a beautiful harp interlude which was much appreciated by the audience.

The Toast to Canada was delivered by Anne Bosch, while the Toast to St. David was delivered by David Llewelyn Williams, who gave an interesting and humorous retelling of the Saint's life. The final toast of the evening, the Toast to Wales, was given by Heather Davies.

Following the Toasts, President Jane Byrne presented commemorative plaques to John Morris and his team – Paul Lievesley, Pat Morris, Wilf Owens-Whalen and Alwyn Rogers – for their voluntary hours of work in the Cambrian Hall, most recently in replacing sections of the floor in the Red Dragon. We also benefitted greatly from the professional expertise of carpenter, Ed Parker. (see also front page photograph)



The Dinner session ended with community singing led by Lynn Owens-Whalen, with accompanist Ray Batten. The President thanked Gaynor Evans for organizing the dinner and Gillian Rogers and members of the Social Committee for arranging the event. Following the Dinner, guests gathered for an after dinner convivial evening in the Red Dragon.

Eifion Williams

PHYLLIS OWENS

In the September Newsletter we featured Phyllis celebrating her 99th birthday.

Sadly she did not reach her hundredth as she passed away on December 11th 2011.

Phyllis was an icon of our society, proud of her Welsh heritage, with a great love of its music and culture. Few events were not graced by her presence, be they the Church Service, the Gymanfa Ganu, the ceremonial Dinners or the fun events in the Red Dragon. At our celebration of the Wedding of Will and Kate, she arrived attired in a bright red coat to suit the occasion! (at age 98!). The society will not be the same without her.

Phyllis was born a Morgan and her parents came to Canada in 1907. They lived in Vancouver close to 17th and Main and Phyllis remembered being imbued with Welsh culture from an early age. She was a member of the Children's Choir and later, the Cambrian Circle Singers. Phyllis was also an active member of the Women's Auxiliary and the Social Committee. Most of us have enjoyed her bountiful supply of Welsh cakes on many an occasion. She married Ken Owens in 1942 in Point Grey United Church, where they were faithful and active lifelong members. They enjoyed a 67-year marriage before Ken died two years ago. (See Feb 2010 Newsletter). A detailed obituary of Phyllis can be found in the Vancouver Sun and also in the February issue of the Celtic Connection.

Our condolences are extended to her daughter Lynn Owens-Whalen and her son-in-law Wilf Owens-Whalen. A memorial Service was held on Feb 5th at Point Grey United Church and our Church service on March 11th was dedicated to Phyllis' memory.



On Friday, February 17th we were treated to a Concert in the Red Dragon by three young people who called themselves **Cerddcegin**; Kitchen Song.

Ceri Jones from Alberta played the Harp while Elsa Davies and Gwilym Hardy played the Fiddles. Ceri went to Wales to study and met Elsa and Gwilym who are both from the Aberystwyth area.

They have been researching Welsh folk music and created for us a number of pieces which combined several old refrains. It was a very spirited evening; not only did we enjoy their music but they also taught us two folk dances and persuaded several of us to participate. Our enjoyment was further enhanced by the chili and dessert provided by the Social Committee.

A fine time was had by all!

D.L.I.W.

Two Welsh Heroes Remembered

Two Welshmen will be remembered this year for their roles in major historic events from one hundred years ago.

No single event of the Twentieth Century has generated more attention than the tragic fate of the *Titanic*, the 'unsinkable' ship that struck an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic on April 15, 1912.

There is a famous Welsh connection to the Titanic sinking. Fifth Officer Harold Lowe, who was born in Deganwy, North Wales, and grew up in Barmouth, was the only lifeboat operator to row back to the sinking ship to pick up survivors.

Occupants of the other lifeboats followed their survival instincts and rowed away from the stricken ship. According to several accounts, Lowe dispersed his passengers among the other lifeboats and rowed back to the ship, managing to rescue several passengers still alive in the freezing ocean.



When Lowe returned to Barmouth, 1,300 people attended a reception held in his honour at the Picture Pavilion. He was presented with a commemorative gold watch with the following inscription: *Presented to Harold Lowe by his friends in Barmouth and elsewhere in recognition and appreciation of his gallant services at the foundering of the Titanic, 15th April, 1912.*

Lowe lived modestly following the event and rarely spoke about it. He died in 1944 and is buried in the graveyard of the Fifteenth Century Llandrillo Church, not far from his birthplace.

Almost every account of the Titanic sinking has mentioned the bravery of the Fifth Officer. Lowe himself would be surprised at his ongoing fame and especially at finding himself depicted in

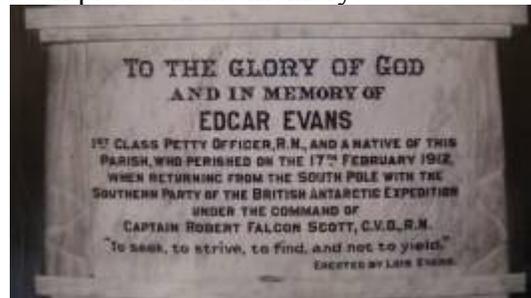
the Oscar-winning movie Titanic. He is the lifeboat operator, played by Welsh actor, Ioan Gruffudd, who rescues the fictional Rose from the icy water.

A commemorative plaque honouring Harold Lowe will be mounted in Barmouth harbor at an April ceremony.

The other Welsh hero, Petty Officer Edgar Evans, will be the main focus of an exhibition in the Swansea Museum, opening on February 17, the anniversary of the day that members of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's 1912 polar expedition reached the South Pole, only to discover that the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen had arrived there first.

All the men, including Evans, perished on the return journey. In his diary, Captain Scott had high praise for Evans' courage and stamina on the expedition, praising "his resourcefulness, his strength and fund of anecdotes."

Edgar Evans was born in Rhossili on the Gower Coast and grew up in Swansea. A memorial service is planned at St. Mary's Church, Swansea, on the anniversary of his death. A service will also be held at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Rhossili, where Evans was married and his children baptized and where a plaque has been placed in his memory.



The Gower Society also plans an Edgar Evans walk around the four-mile sweep

of Rhossili Bay, which last year was voted the best beach in the U.K. There is another, often overlooked, connection to the Scott expedition. The Terra Nova, the ship that carried the men to McMurdo Sound in the Antarctic, sailed from Cardiff on June 15, 1910. A model of the ship will be on display at the Swansea Museum exhibition.

Eifion Williams

IN MEMORY OF UTA WILLIAMS



It was with great sadness that members of the Vancouver Welsh Society received news in February of the passing of Uta Williams, beloved wife of David Llewelyn Williams. Uta passed away after a brief but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, just a few months short of the couple's fiftieth wedding anniversary. Uta will be fondly remembered by the Welsh Society as a gracious and talented lady. In recent years she chronicled many of the Society's events through her capable and artistic skills as a photographer. Her photobook, documenting the Society's participation in the North American Festival of Wales is a prime example.

Photography was just the latest of Uta's many interests and achievements. She

was born Uta Barabara Walter in Hamburg, where as a girl she survived the terrible war years. After receiving an early education in Germany, she built up a distinguished academic career at the University of British Columbia, eventually receiving a PhD degree. It was at UBC that Uta met and later married David Llewelyn, her lifelong partner.

Uta pursued many varied interests during her life; in her youth sports such as grass hockey, ice skating and athletics and artistic pursuits like classical dancing and playing the f-flute. In Canada, skiing Whistler was her favourite sport. In recent years she acquired an interest in real estate investment, in which she achieved some considerable success.

Uta will be sadly missed by husband David Llewelyn, son Marc and daughter-in-law Joyce, son Nicolas and fiancé Jennifer and by her siblings and family in Germany. She will be especially missed by her two cherished grandsons, Hughie and Dylan, to whom she was especially close. Welsh Society members have spoken fondly of Uta's courage and devotion to family when she attended the Society's Children's Christmas Party with her grandsons a few short weeks before she passed away.

The Welsh Society wishes to express its sincere sympathy to David Llewelyn and the family on losing a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. A private family service was held in February. A Celebration of Uta's life will be held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club from 1 to 4 pm on April 1.

(Eifion Williams, on behalf of the members of the Vancouver Welsh Society)

Annual Membership Renewals

Name:.....Phone No.....

Address:.....

City:.....Postal Code:

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 continue to receive the Newsletter by mail (YES or NO).....

Membership Dues for 2012: Regular: \$45

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

Seniors/Students: \$30

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

Note that there has been no increase once again in the membership dues. Additional sums as donations are welcomed! Cheques or Money Orders should be made payable to

“THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER”.

Send your renewals to: **Alwyn Rogers, Membership Secretary, Cambrian Hall,
215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver B.C., V5V 1A6**

Please circle any committee(s) that you are willing to serve on in 2012:

Bar/Social

Building

Church Service

Welsh night

Membership

Other?

We would welcome any suggestions you have for the coming year. Please indicate your ideas in the space below.



Grand Spring Sale



April 14th from 10am until 2pm

- Home made baking and preserves
 - Collectibles
 - China
 - Pre-owned books
 - CD's, DVD's and Videos
 - 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 served in our Tea Room.

Cambrian Hall 215 East 17th Ave.

WelshSociety.com

604-876-2815