

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Mawrth
2013

March
2013

Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



Dr. Lyn Evans with Welsh Society Members

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

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

The past few weeks have been ones of very mixed emotions. Many of us attended Veronica Gilder's memorial service in Steveston United Church on Saturday, February 16th. The church was filled to overflowing; a tribute to Veronica's standing in the community. A formal obituary of Veronica will be published in the next newsletter. In the interim we send our heartfelt condolences to David and the family.

One week later, on February 23rd, we held a memorial service at the Cambrian Hall for our late Past President, John Morris. His obituary is included thanks to Richard Morris and Eifion Williams.

We have enjoyed a number of events; the St. Dwynwen's Evening was very successful as was our Open House on St. David's Day and the St. David's Dinner on March 2nd (the saint day of his mother, St. Non). Some of us met Dr. Lyn Evans after his lecture and others attended the launch of the Richard Burton Diaries. An enriching series of events.

We join together in congratulating Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones on his 90th birthday – may he have many more!

My thanks to Eifion Williams for several of the articles. The St. Dwynwen photos were by Anne Williams and the Lyn Evans photos are from Gwyn Evans.

David Llewelyn Williams

Please pay your membership dues!

Forthcoming Events

Sunday, March 10th at 11am
Bilingual Church Service. This will be followed by a *tê bach*
Wednesday, March 13th at 12 noon,
the Cambrian Bookworms will be discussing “The Blindness of the Heart” by Juliet Franck
Monday, March 18th at 10.30 am
Welsh Speaking – Siarad Cymraeg
Monday, March 18th at 7.30 pm
Welsh Lessons
Monday, March 25th 10 am to 3 pm
Work Party Day. A delicious lunch will be provided. See you there!

Wednesday, April 3rd at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting

Monday, April 8th at 7.30 pm
GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 10th at 12 noon
the Cambrian Bookworms will be discussing “In a burned Country” by Bill Bryson
Sunday, April 14th at 11am
Bilingual Church Service. This will be followed by a *tê bach*
Monday, April 15th at 10.30 am
Welsh Speaking – Siarad Cymraeg

GRAND SPRING SALE

Saturday, April 20th 10 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”, “Things Welsh”,
**Children's Wear and Toys, **
Electrical and Electronics.

Volunteers are needed: before the Sale on April 17th and 19th 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: **Monday, April 8th** at 7 pm prior to the General Meeting
Sunday, April 14th at the Church Service
Wednesday, April 17th 10 am to 3 pm
Friday, April 19th 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.

Monday, April 22nd from 10am to 3pm
Work Party Day. A delicious lunch will be provided. See you there!
Monday, April 29th at 7.30 pm
Welsh Lessons

Wednesday, May 1st at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting
Saturday, May 4th at 7.30 pm
Social Evening (to be arranged)
Wednesday, May 8th at 12 noon, the
Cambrian Bookworms will discuss “The Bells” by Richard Harvell.
Sunday, May 12th at 11am
Bilingual Church Service. This will be followed by a *tê bach*
Monday, May 13th at 7.30 pm
Welsh Lessons
Monday, May 20th at 10.30 am
Welsh speaking – Siarad Cymraeg

The Saint Dwynwen Evening

On Saturday, January 26th, 41 members and guests attended a very successful St. Dwynwen event in the Red Dragon, appropriately decorated with hearts. David Llewelyn gave an introduction to St. Dwynwen, followed by her prayer and then a reading of Dafydd ap Gwilym's poem Appealing to Saint Dwynwen. He then distributed St. Dwynwen's Day cards to everyone and explained the Welsh words in the heart. There was this South Walian word called cwtych, which Jane insisted meant the area under the stairs – perhaps it might be appropriate to a different location?



David had printed out five Welsh songs with English translations too, with the idea that we might pick three of them to sing, but they insisted on singing all five, ably assisted by Ray Batten on the piano, who adjusted the pitch to accommodate our limited range!



We then paused for dessert etc. profiteroles, chocolate pastries, trifle Eifion Williams had composed a very interesting Quiz appropriate to the event, which was placed on each table, so we

had the opportunity to work on that too.

After the interval, people were invited to come out and read their favourite poem or their own composition. Several did, but Betti Darvel Jones brought the house down with her rendition of *Stately as a Galleon* a very funny poem by Joyce Grenfel about dancing at her age when there were very few men available. This set a great mood in the gathering.

We were then entertained by Sharon McIntee Burrell, accompanied by Ruben Federizon, who sang two songs, 'A brown bird is singing' (Haydn Wood) and 'Romance' by Sigmund Romberg to great acclaim.



We moved to the limerick competition: David was inundated with more than 30 entries, roughly half with the first line "A lonely young man from Rhyl" and the others with 'There was a young maid from Caerffili'. He read them all out to the very great amusement of the audience.



Then Eifion gave us the answers of his enlightening quiz; participation was its own reward! Finally Sharon brought the evening to a wonderful close by singing the beautiful song David had requested, ‘The Rose’, which she dedicated to him.

Grateful thanks to all the participants who enthusiastically combined to make this event a fun time for all. Not the least, the Social Committee for the decorations and the mouth watering desserts. We hope this will establish an on-going tradition.

D.L.I.W.

Dr. Lyn Evans, Director of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN

On Wednesday, February 20, Vancouver Welsh Society members attended a public lecture at Science World by Dr. Lyn Evans entitled Back to the Big Bang - From the LHC to the Higgs and Beyond. Given the complexity of both the theory and the amazing technical details, it was a remarkably lucid talk. I learnt some new details!

You should realize that Dr. Evans is a proud Welshman. Originally from Cwmbach as is Gwyn Evans, he attended Aberdare Grammar School as did Barrie Hancock. Dr. Evans is the product of the Welsh educational system of his day: Aberdare Grammar School and the University of Wales. He is also a Vice President of the Morryston Orpheus Choir, which has visited us in the past.

Several of our members were invited to the reception following the talk; we supplied Welsh-cakes and Bara Brith and the organizer supplied a bottle of Penderyn to create a Welsh atmosphere. I gave a short speech, partly in the Language of Heaven, welcoming Lyn,

recognizing his achievements and presenting him with an Honorary Membership in our Society.



Now in his ‘retirement’ Dr. Evans heads an international group planning the next generation accelerator!

D.L.I.W.

Vancouver launch of the Richard Burton Diaries

According to the prolific entries in his diaries, Richard Burton’s main ambition was to be a writer and he frequently mentions his loathing for the acting profession. The Hollywood movie star and critically acclaimed classical stage actor had a lifelong interest in literature and the magic of words. This became apparent in the excerpts read out by Dr. Chris Williams, editor of *The Richard Burton Diaries* during the book’s launch at the Pan Pacific Hotel on February 21.

Dr. Williams, Professor of Welsh History at Swansea University, had spent years editing the Diaries, which were presented to the University by Burton’s widow, Sally Burton. A number of Society members attended the launch, which was followed by a question and answer session and a book signing. In the Diaries the actor reveals the depth of his passionate affair with Elizabeth Taylor, who was, he says “beautiful beyond pornography”. He also makes frequent reference to his alcoholism, which plagued him throughout his life

and eventually contributed to his death. Dr. Williams maintains that Burton was bored with acting and in his almost daily jottings made frequent unflattering comments about fellow actors such as Lawrence Olivier and John Gielgud. He dreams of being a writer and of teaching literature at Oxford, a noble ambition for a coalminer's son, one of eleven children from Pontrhydyfen near Port Talbot.

That Burton had a talent for writing is borne out by the excerpts read out by Dr. Williams. Audience members were frequently amused and impressed by Burton's turn of phrase in what were basically his casual diary entries. They reveal a personality at times funny, introspective, sarcastic and sometimes self-loathing. Dr. Williams said that the Diaries changed his views on Burton. Many of those who attended the launch also maintained they had gained a new perspective on this charismatic but seriously-flawed and moody Welshman.

The Richard Burton Diaries, edited by Chris Williams, is published by Yale University Press.

Eifion Williams

ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE CAMBRIAN HALL

There was a large, happy gathering at an Open House in the Red Dragon on the evening of March 1st to honour Wales' Patron Saint. Neville Thomas, host and Master of Ceremonies, kept events moving along with his usual enthusiasm. For the first hour celebrants mingled and savoured memories of Wales to a background of videos representing many aspects of Welsh life, including Wales' outstanding scenery, popular singers and choirs, great rugby moments and events surrounding the poet Dylan Thomas.

David Llewelyn Williams gave a brief summary of the memorable events in St. David's life as a background to better understanding the verses in the song *Cenwch y Clychau i Dewi* (Ring out the Bells for St. David). This song, the Official Song of the National St. David's Day Procession in Cardiff, is becoming increasingly popular at St. David's Day celebrations throughout the world, including Patagonia this year. In a gesture of solidarity with the Cardiff Procession, we listened to a DVD of the Welsh verses by Gwennno Dafydd. The highlight of the evening was the annual Druidic Procession led by drummer Paul Lievesley accompanied by ladies in traditional Welsh costume. Jane Byrne and Antone Minard opened the proceedings with a reading in Welsh and English of poet Eifion Wyn's poem *Os Wyt Gymro* (If you are Welsh). The two robed Druids, "Archdderwydd Cynan" (John Pritchard) and "Crwys" (Neville Thomas) then called for the traditional response to *A Oes Heddwch?* (Is There Peace?) with the audience loudly responding three times with the word *Heddwch!* (Peace!). The evening ended with the distribution of leek portions to accompany the Toast to St. David. President Jane Byrne then thanked all those who took part in the evening's proceedings and especially Neville Thomas for his efforts in contributing to the evening's success.

The following evening, March 2nd, the annual St. David's Day Dinner, catered by Jordan's, was held in the Cambrian Hall. Harpist Tom Morrison provided background music during the Dinner. The Blessing, in English and Welsh respectively, was given by Elizabeth and Edward Rogers-Jones.

After the Dinner, Greetings from Kindred Societies were read out Eifion Williams. We learnt of several flourishing Welsh Societies in different parts of the world, from Rotarua in New Zealand, through Australia, Hong Kong (350 celebrants!), Singapore and the Chicago Taffia. Canadian Societies too, including the Shuswap Welsh Society.

The musical guest for the evening was soprano Katie Proctor, who entertained the audience with *On my own* from *Les Mis*, *Love never dies* from *Love never dies*, *Villanelle* by Eva del Aqua, *Memory* from *Cats*, before ending with the Welsh hymn *Calon Lan*. Her accompanist was Roger Parton, Music Director of Opera pro Cantati

The traditional Toast to Canada was presented by Don Murray, followed by the singing of *O Canada*. Elizabeth Murray presented the Toast to Wales, which we followed with the singing of *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau*. John Pritchard presented the Toast to St. David. Lynn Owens-Whalen ended the evening by conducting the audience in a selection of popular Welsh hymns, accompanied by Ray Batten, who served as accompanist throughout the evening.

Once again, Jane Byrne thanked all those who had taken part, making special mention of the Society's Social Committee, led by Chair Gillian Rogers, and including Heather Davies, Gaynor Evans, Mary Lewis, Pat Morris, Kathy Thomas and the President herself. The Welsh Society is grateful to these hard-working members, who worked diligently to organize the St. David's celebrations and were rewarded with two very successful and popular events.

Eifion Williams

John Morris



Our Past President, John Morris was a man of many talents. Throughout his years as President his strong leadership and, above all, his own example, helped the Welsh Society face many challenges. The maintenance and preservation of the eighty-five year old Cambrian Hall was especially important to John and he devoted his time and exceptional skills to the tasks required to maintain the integrity of the building. Other members who have assisted him in what were sometimes challenging projects have testified to John's diligence and leadership.

John was a proud Welshman who encouraged the Society's cultural events and especially encouraged the use of the Welsh language in Society events, even though he was not himself fluent in the language. John will be remembered as a modest individual who rarely talked about his achievements or his early life experiences. His low-key conduct of the Society's affairs and his quiet sense of humour will long be remembered by all those who worked with him and the Society will be forever grateful for all he accomplished on our behalf.

John Arthur William Morris was born in Bootle, near Liverpool in 1935. At the outbreak of World War 2 he was evacuated to his grandparent's farm in Wales. There he spent a happy childhood in the countryside and community of Meifod. It left a lasting impression and a sense of nostalgia for the simpler, more peaceful life of the Welsh valley and often drew him back. In 1984 John and Pat bought the Old Post Office, a dilapidated Georgian house in the village, which they renovated with the help of school and local friends. Annual family visits ensured that John remained part of the community.

After attending the village school in Meifod, John returned to Liverpool and at the age of 18 entered Shrewsbury Technical College where his natural talent and affinity for things mechanical was evident and he was motivated to continue in the engineering profession. He entered the merchant marine service and spent the next six years with the Canadian Pacific Steamships sailing on the *Empress of England* and the *Empress of Britain*. He enjoyed life at sea. He was part of a close-knit team and he was able to organize the engineers' social club. He also coached and managed the soccer team, which competed in the league of ship's teams in Montreal.

John immigrated to British Columbia in 1962, where he used his engineering skills in the machine fitting area of the construction industry, mainly in Pulp and Paper Mills around the Province. He also became immersed in the soccer community, becoming one of the founding members of the British Columbia Referees Association and its President for many years. He was also chosen to be on the FIFA list, officiating

as a linesman in the North American Soccer League.

In 1967, John met Pat, who was newly arrived in Vancouver from England. A year later they were engaged and went to Pat's family in Britain for their wedding. They established a home on the west side of Vancouver and had two sons, Richard and Rodney. In 1970 John started work at Carling Breweries, which merged with Molson Breweries in 1989; he was Chief Engineer there until his retirement in 1995.

In 1980, John and Pat were invited to join the Welsh Society by Membership Secretary Neville Thomas. Both became very active members of the Society and over the years John served as Director, Treasurer, Vice-President and President, while Pat became active in organizing the Society's social events.

For the last twenty years the Morris family lived a more rural lifestyle in South Surrey, on acreage they called Druid's Green. The fields reminded John of his grandfather's smallholding in Wales and the out buildings gave him scope for hobbies after retirement. One of these hobbies was the breeding and raising of sheep, at which John became an adept practitioner.

On Saturday, February 23rd, a large gathering at the Cambrian Hall celebrated the Life of John Morris, with many present testifying to his full and rich life. John would have been pleased that one of the songs at the gathering reflected another of John's passions, Liverpool Football Club's anthem *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

Eifion Williams

Captain Ieuan Lampshire-Jones



Our longtime member, Captain Ieuan Lampshire- Jones celebrated his 90th birthday on February 22nd. As you know, he has served our Society in many roles over the years; on the Executive including a term as Vice President and as President. He has also been associated with the Church Service since its inception. But you may be less aware of his career, which was featured in the November issue of the BC Shipping News. Here are some of the highlights:

Ieuan was born in 1923 in the village of Aberarth, Ceredigion, on Cardigan Bay and followed in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great grandfather by choosing a career at sea. He joined his first merchant ship in November 1939.

For his participation in the Second World War, he received a total of eight medals:

1939 – 1945 War Service Star
Battle of the Atlantic Star with Clasp denoting participation in D-Day landings at Juno Beach, Normandy.
North Africa Invasion Star
Pacific Ocean Service Star
Burma Invasion Star
Italy Invasion Star
1939-1945 Defence Medal
1939-1945 WWII Civilian Medal.

Following the war, he stayed at sea for two more years before attending the Department of Marine Studies at the University of Wales, the Southshields Marine and Technical College and the City of London Polytechnical School of Navigation. He was then back to sea throughout the 1950s and 1960s before finally landing in Vancouver in January 1969 to open a field office for SGS Supervision Services.

He built up a formidable reputation for his expertise in ship surveying. The job involved the inspection of ships coming into Vancouver; providing cleanliness certificates; acquiring test samples; supervising loading; and final displacement surveys.

His territory included the entire Pacific Northwest from Northern California to Alaska, as well as the Yukon, Greenland and the Canadian High Arctic. Captain Lampshire-Jones was often an integral part of ship loading operations, especially at new terminals. He officially retired in 1988 but has remained active in the shipping industry as a consultant.

D. Ll. W.



Grand



Spring Sale

**Saturday, April 20th 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

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