

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Cymdeithas Gymreig Vancouver

Cambrian News

**Mai
2019**

**May
2019**

Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



Jane Byrne: Celtic Person of the Year, 2019

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)

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The Cambrian News

From the Editor:

The Vancouver Welsh Society congratulates long time member **Jane Byrne**, who has been pronounced this year's Celtic Person of the Year (see front page photograph). The award was presented on 16 March at Christchurch Cathedral. Few have contributed as much to the Vancouver Welsh community and no one could be more deserving of this award than Jane. More information about Jane and the service she has given the society over the past sixty years in several leadership roles, including president, can be found at https://celtic-connection.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/celtic_feb-19_1-2.pdf.

This year marks the 90th Anniversary of the Cambrian Hall, built in 1929 by a group of members who envisioned and built the hall as a "welcome home for the Welsh community." Watch out for notices of special events, including a big concert in the fall, that are presently in the planning stages as the society prepares to celebrate this important milestone in its history. The next issue of the newsletter, due out in October, one month later than usual, will be a special edition devoted to the Cambrian Hall, its founders and its history.

Read on to enjoy accounts and view photographs of events at the Cambrian Hall so far this year, including St. Dwynwen's Day, the St. David's Day celebration and dinner, the twmpath and Welsh Spirit Saturday afternoon presentations. Take note of the "forthcoming events" section so you don't miss out on future events - There's a lot going on!

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 Speaking Group

Wednesday 1 May at 10:30 am. *Cyfarfod arbenig y bore 'ma oherwydd bydd dau o ymwelwyr o Ogledd Cymru gyda ni.*

Executive Meeting

Monday 6 May at 7:00 pm in the Red Dragon.

Cambrian Bookworms

Wednesday 8 May at 12 noon. This month we will decide on the list of books to be read next season.

Lunch, General Meeting and Welsh Spirit

Saturday 11 May at 12 noon. *More details regarding the Welsh Spirit event to follow!*

Bilingual Service

Sunday 12 May at 11.00 am in the Red Dragon, followed by têt bach (light refreshments).

Genealogy Group

Wednesday 15 May at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Red Dragon.

Pub night

Friday 17 May at 7:30 pm, in the Red Dragon.

Work Party Day

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

Welsh Language Classes

The Welsh language classes are currently on a two-week semester break. When they recommence, the class will probably keep to its Thursday 7:00 to 9:00 pm slot in the Red Dragon. However, the schedule varies and details are shown [here](#).

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 in 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 SPRING 2019

On **Friday 24 May**, the Orpheus Choir will sing with its hosts “A Capela Plus” at St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Nanaimo, and on **Saturday 25 May**, the choir’s hosts will be “Cenenti Women and Acafellas” at Duncan United Church.

Please visit the choir’s website for details of upcoming concerts and events:

<http://vancouverorpheus.org>

Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir

Friday 24 May at 7:30 pm: Spring Concert with Starlight Pops in Victoria.

Saturday 25 May at 7:30 pm: Spring Concert in Parksville.

Please visit the choir’s website for fuller details of upcoming concerts and events:

<https://vwmc.ca>

New members who haven’t received their membership cards, please let the membership secretary, Jackie Chapman, know.

Calling former Welsh Guards living in Vancouver

We’ve received a request from a lady whose husband served in the Welsh Guards from 1965 to 1978. He has moved from Wales and now lives in Vancouver and is looking for other ex-Welsh guards who might live nearby. Please let the editor know if you would like to be put in contact with this lady. dysgwrcymraeg375@gmail.com

An Invitation from Fredericton, New Brunswick

The Central New Brunswick Welsh Society and the New Brunswick Welsh Heritage Trust has invited Vancouver members to join them in celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of their Welsh ancestors. The celebration will be held on 10 August 2019 at the Welsh Chapel heritage site in Cardigan, New Brunswick, which is Canada’s oldest enduring Welsh community. It will be followed by a special church service on 11 August in Fredericton, New Brunswick. More information can be found at www.nbwelsh.ca or on Facebook at *Central New Brunswick Welsh Society*.

Welcome to New Members

Ruth De Groot
Christopher J. Dodds
Robert Edwards
Hannah Honeybun
Emyr Honeybun
Tim Jordan
Courtney Selvage

Congratulations, Marilyn!

The Welsh Society of Vancouver congratulates member **Rev. Dr. Marilyn Hames**, who recently retired. Marilyn came from Cardiff originally, and has been a priest, an engineer and an artist. To read more about Marilyn’s remarkable life, visit <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/so-many-marilyns-priest-engineer-artist-all-cut-from-the-one-brilliant-diamond>



Marilyn on St. David's Day

Why Wales is Known as the "Land of Song"

President **Lynn Owens-Whalen** has drawn the editor's attention to this interesting article on the BBC Website. The article explains that "singing is part of Welsh identity and tradition" and asks, "what caused this tradition to be collectively handed from generation to generation?" To read more, click on the link below:

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20180930-why-wales-is-known-as-the-land-of-song>

Photo Gallery of Recent Society Events

Welsh Spirit/St Dwynwen's Day **Saturday 26 January**

Members and friends gathered in the Red Dragon to celebrate St Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of lovers. Past president **David Llewelyn Williams** gave an interesting talk on the story of St. Dwynwen and the various myths surrounding this 5th Century saint.



After David's presentation, **Sharon McIntee-Birrell** delighted us with some of her favourite love songs. Then **Jackie Chapman** and **Alwyn Rogers** sang the lullaby "Suo Gân," to much applause. Next, the annual limerick competition, which is a traditional part of our St. Dwynwen celebration, provided a great deal of laughter. The place names, this year, were Brecon and Rhyl, and there were many entries for both. **Marilyn Hames**, won the Brecon section for this hilarious entry:

A smashing young woman from Brecon,
Was virtuous, too, so they reckon;
She just liked to flirt,
So wore a tight skirt,
"To keep cool" she said, "Not to beckon!"

In the Rhyl category, the winner was **Emma Breeze**, for this very funny one:

There was a young lady from Rhyl,
Who had an incredible skill;
She could hang by her toes,
While reciting Welsh prose,
And cooking lamb chops on the grill.

Congratulations, Emma and Marilyn!

After a scrumptious têt bach, that included cake, cookies and chocolates, **Sharon McIntee-Birrell** brought the celebration to an end with a lovely rendering of the well-loved romantic song, “The Rose.”



Sharon, rt., with membership secretary Jackie Chapman



Jackie Chapman and Alcwyn Rogers sang “Suo Gân”



Members celebrated together in The Pint after watching the 2019 Six Nations rugby game in which Wales beat England on 23 February.

*St. David's Day
Friday 1 March*



President and Master of Ceremonies, **Lynn Owens-Whalen** welcomed attendees at the St. David's Day Open House in the Red Dragon.



“Druid” Paul Lievesley



Vancouver City Councillor **Michael Wiebe** read the proclamation on behalf of Vancouver’s mayor.



Jackie Little and Roy Beavon



Jackie Jones Chapman entertained



The ceremony proceeded

community singing that rounded off a wonderful evening.



And an impromptu “choir” formed!



*St. David's Day Dinner
Saturday 2 March*

The delicious meal was served by Granville Island Caterers and **Leanne Page**, Celtic harpist and classically trained singer, performed for us with her son, **Connor**. **Lynn Owens-Whalen**, President, was the Chair and MC for the evening, **Efion Williams** presented the greetings from kindred societies, and **Don Davies**, MP for Vancouver Kingsway, who has a Welsh heritage and regularly attends our St. David's Day dinner, made the toast to Canada. **Jane Byrne** made the roast to Wales, **Jackie Little** made the toast to St. David and **Ray Batten** accompanied the



Don Davies, MP

*The Welsh Society Twmpath
Saturday 23 March*

Accompanied by **The Rattlebone Band** and **JD Erskine**, caller, dancers of all ages enjoyed a lively evening of folk dancing. The Welsh Society dance has become a favourite among local dancers over the last few years. We urge members to come along – to dance, mingle and meet friends. It's a guaranteed great night out!



Elan (from Holywell) and **Neil** (from Wallasey) arrived in Vancouver at noon on Saturday 23 March on a trans-Atlantic flight and immediately looked on-line to see if there were any events on at the local Welsh Society. They attended the twmpath and managed to last right to the end! What amazing stamina!

*The Van/Man Male Choral
Summit*

Friday 12 and Saturday 13 April

The Van/Man Male Choral Summit is held annually and is arranged by the Chor Leoni choir. The event is open to male singers and involves tuition by the Chor Leoni director, **Erick Lichte**, followed by a number of concerts. This year the event was held at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts and the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir was pleased to be invited. Orpheus performed one of the sets and sang with the massed choir. This combined choir was composed of Chor Leoni, the MYVoice youth choirs, the Van/Man Festival Singers and the acclaimed premier men's vocal ensemble in the United States, Cantos.

The first of the photos below shows the Orpheus Choir performance and the second shows the 300-plus massed choir. Both photos were taken on Saturday 13 April:



The hall quickly filled up



*The Spring Fair
Saturday 27 April*



Jackie and Heather were on Linens



Lynn and Johanna gave the silent auction items a last check before the doors opened



Pat "manned" the baked goods stall



Lynn and Johanna looked after the silent auction



Gillian and Alwyn oversaw everything



Mary sold raffle tickets (here with her daughter, Jane)



And Roy and Paul “manned” the electronics table

A Message from Gillian Rogers

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed in so many ways to our very successful Spring Sale. Please pass on our thanks to your friends, families and neighbours who assisted us both before the

Sale and on the day.

Our takings were comparable to last year and will be a great help to the finances of the Society.

We were 40 people volunteering on Saturday and I believe we all had a good time. We heard many positive comments about the Sale from our customers who look forward to the Sale every year.

And a huge thank you to Gillian for all her hard work, too! – Ed.

Quiz: Part 3 (from walesbooks.com)

21. What legal precedent did Captain Henry Morgan (the most famous buccaneer in history) set ?

22. Who first wrote the phrase "or whom the bell tolls"?

23. Since 1787, Wales has had the largest "Orangery" in the world - where is it?

24. Where was the world's largest nickel works?

25. What are the Welsh links with Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid?

26. Wales had the world's largest copper mine. Where?

27. Who invented the "pi" sign, and in which century?

28. Who invented the = sign, and in which century?

29. Where was the very first game of lawn tennis?

30. Who founded "classical English" architecture?

Answers to part 2 of the quiz:

11. St David's, Llandaf, St Asaf and Bangor - Christianity was not wiped out in Wales when the Romans left, unlike in England which was pagan for centuries.

12. Robert Owen of Newtown.

13. At Aberystwyth, overlooking 26 mountain peaks and 1000 square miles of sea and landscapes.

14. Samuel Adams (1722-1803) was Welsh, and the second cousin of John Adams, the second president of the USA. He organised the opposition of the colonists to the hated Stamp Act in 1765, and instigated the Boston Tea party in 1773, starting the War of Independence. The famous Samuel Adams Boston beer is named after him, and he was the first man to call England "a nation of shopkeepers."

15. David Llywelyn Wark Griffith - D.W. Griffith innovated fade-in, fade-out, close-up and flash-back techniques in his epic films 'The Birth of a Nation' (1915) and Intolerance (1916).

16. The designer and innovator Mary Quant is Welsh.

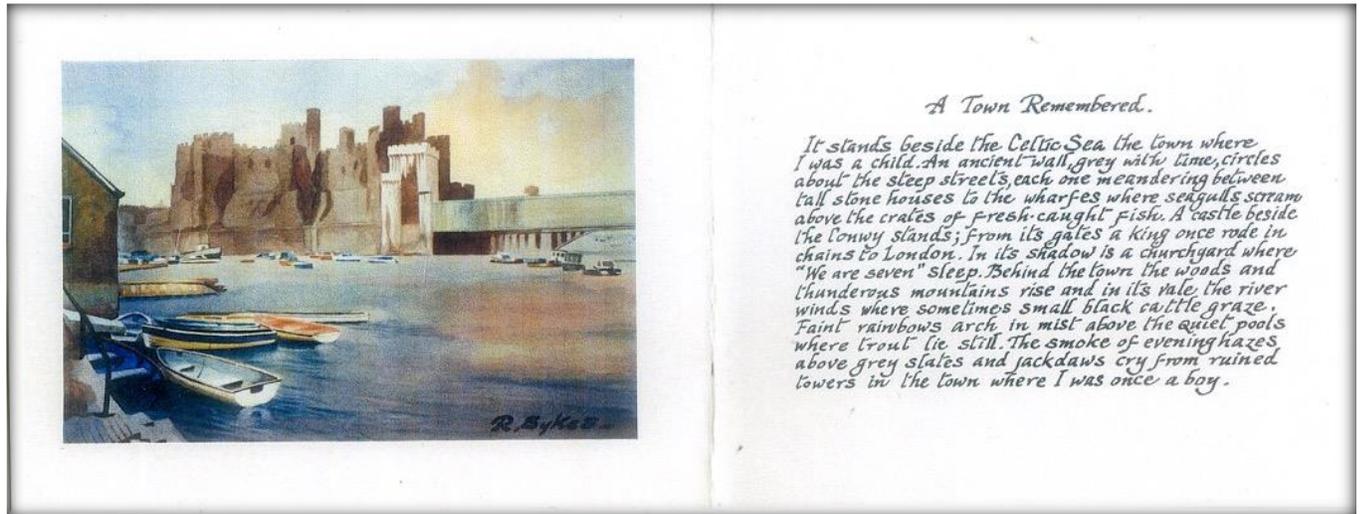
17. The Welsh archers who won the battles of Agincourt, Crecy and Poitiers were hated by the French, and if caught, the two first fingers of their 'draw' hand were cut off, to prevent them ever using a longbow again. As a result, they used to gesticulate to the French, waving their two fingers at anyone they captured.

18. Several Welshmen were involved. Joseph Price (who tried to save Dic Penderyn from hanging) founded it, and its first secretary was Evan Rees, the author of "Sketches of the Horrors of War." It is most associated with the pacifist Henry Richard of Tregaron, "The Apostle of Peace."

19. The World Heritage Site of Edwardian Castles in North Wales built to encircle and cut off Gwynedd. Designated sites are Conwy, Caernarfon, Beaumaris and Harlech, plus the town walls of Conwy and Caernarfon.

20. Captain Henry Morgan, later Admiral and Governor of Jamaica.

This beautiful painting and its lyrical caption were sent in by **Rhod Sykes**, an out-of-town member who now lives in Goderich, Ontario. He is responsible for much of the beautiful artwork in the Red Dragon.



A Town Remembered.

*It stands beside the Celtic Sea the town where
I was a child. An ancient wall, grey with lime, circles
about the steep streets, each one meandering between
tall stone houses to the wharves where seagulls screech
above the crates of fresh-caught fish. A castle beside
the lowly slands; from its gates a king once rode in
chains to London. In its shadow is a churchyard where
"We are seven" sleep. Behind the town the woods and
thunderous mountains rise and in its vale the river
winds where sometimes small black cattle graze,
Faint rainbows arch in mist above the quiet pools
where trout lie still. The smoke of evening hazes,
above grey slates and jackdaws cry from ruined
towers in the town where I was once a boy.*

*The Vancouver Welsh Society
Newsletter* is issued three times a year,
in January, May and September. The next
issue, however, is planned for October, just
before the 90th year anniversary
celebrations for the Cambrian Hall.