

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER  
Cymdeithas Gymreig Vancouver

*Cambrian News*

**Mai 2020**

**May 2020**

*Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas*



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

## **VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY**

## *The Cambrian News*

### **Officers:**

#### **President:**

**Lynn Owens-Whalen**

#### **Vice-President**

**Paul Lievesley**

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

**David Llewelyn Williams**

#### **Secretary:**

**Kathy Thomas**

#### **Treasurer:**

**Wynford Owen**

#### **Membership Secretary:**

*To be announced*

#### **Directors:**

**Jane Byrne**

**Jackie Chapman**

**Ian Davies**

**Johanna Hickey**

**Jacqueline Little**

**Patricia Morris**

### **Contacts:**

#### **Building Committee:**

**Paul Lievesley**

#### **Church Service:**

**Various**

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

**Roy Beavon**

#### **Rentals:**

**Wynford Owen**

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

**Kathy Thomas (Coordinator)**

**Gaynor Evans (Secretary)**

[www.welshsociety.com](http://www.welshsociety.com)

#### **Webmaster:**

**Alcwyn Rogers**

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

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**Cambrian Hall      604-876-2815**

### **From the President:**



April 25 was to be our annual Spring Sale and Silent Auction! The day began with rain so it would have been a soggy start but the sun is shining now and we can only imagine how busy and happy the day at the Cambrian Hall would have been. Covid-19 has been a journey into the unknown for all of us. Our house is boasting less paper, less clutter, a tended garden well ahead of usual, an introduction to early morning senior shopping, social distancing, scrubbed hands and wearing a mask. Most of all we are missing the physical presence of our family, friends and neighbours and the joys of meeting one another at the Cambrian Hall. But we are safe, finding a bit of time just to enjoy home and are counting our blessings living in B.C. and Canada. Daily public health briefings have provided us with knowledge and advice that we find comforting and we are constantly amazed of the immense support that federal and provincial governments are endeavouring to provide.

But we miss you all and wonder if we can gather virtually. The book club successfully pioneered a virtual meeting last week. What if we expand this idea? We may have time restrictions but some time together is better than no time! If you have any ideas of activities you think we could do virtually, please email me at: [puffin49@telus.net](mailto:puffin49@telus.net).

Lynn Owens-Whalen

## Forthcoming Events

In response to the covid-19 pandemic, all events and activities of the Vancouver Welsh Society are cancelled or postponed until further notice. Please continue to consult the Vancouver Welsh Society website [www.welshsociety.com](http://www.welshsociety.com) for current information.

### A Note about the Spring Sale and Silent Auction:

The decision has been made to postpone, not to cancel, the Spring Sale. We have been delighted by the response to our requests and are very grateful to the businesses and organizations that have once again come forward with donations to the Silent Auction, always a very popular part of the Spring Sale. We would like to assure all of our supporters and members that we will not disappoint when the Spring Sale is held whenever it is safe to do so!

## Typical Monthly Events

*For information only! All events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. Please consult the Society Website for updates.*

**Sundays:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month: Bilingual Church Service. The exception is in November when the service is on the Sunday of the Welsh weekend.

**Mondays:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month for Board Members only: Executive Meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Mondays:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month the Red Cardigan Folk Club meets at 7:00 pm.

**Mondays:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month: The Welsh speaking group meets at 10:30 am.

**Mondays:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month: Volunteer working party: 10:00 am until 3:30 pm.

**Wednesdays:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month: The Book Club meets at 12:00 noon.

**Wednesdays:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

Please refer to the choir's website for information: <http://vancouverorpheus.org>

### *Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir*

Please refer to the choir's website for information: <https://vwmc.ca>



## *Welcome to New Members*

**Norma Dixon  
Jamilda Esper  
Daphne Kelly  
Lorraine Mansell  
Rich Murray  
Jerry Pedersen  
Jacob Pryce  
Faun Rice  
Bruno Schneider  
Will Tanenbaum**

## **Important Messages and Information**



### **An Update on NAFOW 2020 From David Matthews, President of The Welsh North American Association**

Dear Members and Friends of the WNAA, In my recent Easter letter, I looked forward to the possibility of NAFOW [North American Festival of Wales] Philadelphia taking place this fall. The WNAA hoped that the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic would have diminished to the point that we could all safely get together to celebrate and enjoy our Welshness once again.

Unfortunately, after careful consideration of the numerous risks still involved, and the uncertainty that exists during this COVID-19 pandemic, and after discussion with the Philadelphia organizing committee's co-chairs, Taylor Williams and Jack Williams, it is with the deepest regret that the Welsh

North American Association announces the cancellation of NAFOW Philadelphia 2020. My heart goes out to the Philadelphia team who has done so much work, together with the WNAA board, in preparing for the NAFOW. Please be assured that the WNAA board will be working hard to reschedule a Philadelphia NAFOW as soon as is possible. We will, of course, keep you informed of any final decision made. We traditionally end each NAFOW with these words, 'May God be with you 'til we meet again.' I, now, look forward to meeting each one of you in NAFOW Ottawa, 2021. Stay Safe!  
David.

### **A message from Aberystwyth University about the "Learn Welsh" Intensive Summer Course 2020**

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to thoroughly assess the risks of running the course this summer. Due to the on-going uncertainty, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the course for 2020.

#### **Distance Learning Option**

Despite this, we are working hard to design a distance learning course that would run over the same dates (03 – 28 August). We hope to release further details about this course by mid-May. Please let us know if the distance learning option is of interest to you:

**0800 876 6975**

[dysgucymraeg@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dysgucymraeg@aber.ac.uk) | [learnwelsh@aber.ac.uk](mailto:learnwelsh@aber.ac.uk)

[dysgucymraeg.cymru](http://dysgucymraeg.cymru) | [learnwelsh.cymru](http://learnwelsh.cymru)

## Submissions by Members

### Welsh Heroes, By Eifion Williams

Various organizations like the BBC have periodically conducted polls on the greatest Welsh heroes of all time. The top names on the lists are usually and predictably Aneurin Bevan, founder of Britain's National Health Service, and Owain Glyndwr, who fought so long for Welsh independence.

The lists might also include more recent names such as poet Dylan Thomas, Prime Minister Lloyd George or celebrities like Tom Jones, Bryn Terfel and Laura Ashley, whose talents and personalities have brought international recognition to Wales.

But there are some Welsh heroes who are rarely mentioned in these lists and whose exploits and achievements are not as well known. This Newsletter and the next two issues will feature three Welshmen who qualify as genuine Welsh heroes.

**EDGAR EVANS** was a member of Captain Robert Scott's 1912 Terra Nova Expedition to the South Pole. Evans was one of the five men involved in the final push to the Pole. As we know, Scott's expedition proved futile as Norwegian Roald Amundsen's party beat the British to the Pole by several weeks. All members of Scott's party died on the return journey.

In the past, it has seemed characteristically British to be able to turn defeat into victory, to see something positive in a tragedy or to celebrate courage in the face of adversity. Perhaps the best example of this was the 1940 Dunkirk evacuation.

In the same way, the British glorified Captain Scott's failure in being the first to reach the Pole by celebrating the courage of the men involved. The contribution of Welshman Edgar Evans to the expedition's success was overlooked, sometimes even

criticized, for many years but has since been restored.

Evans was born in 1876 near Rhossili on the Gower Coast. The son of a sailor, he was always destined for a career at sea. He enlisted in the Royal Navy at the age of 13 and by 1899 was serving on the same ship as Captain Robert Falcon Scott. He was eventually promoted to the rank of Petty Officer and was one of a three-man team on Scott's first Antarctic expedition in 1903. Heroes are not necessarily saints. Evans was a big man, one description of him being that of "a huge bull-necked figure." with a reputation as a womanizer who enjoyed his beer. But Captain Scott knew his man and felt that he needed Evans' strength and cheerful personality on his Polar expedition. Scott was right. Evans was a tireless worker who was always busying himself with one job or another. Evans' enormous strength was needed as Scott did not use dogs to pull the sledges, which some have argued lost him the race with Amundsen.

Evans was chosen by Scott as one of the five-man team to make the final push to the South Pole. The men were naturally devastated when they discovered that they had been beaten to their goal.

The party's journey back to base was both desperate and deadly. The Antarctic was experiencing some of the worst gales ever seen and the men were constantly battered by snow and ice. It soon became apparent that they were in serious trouble.

Evans had cut his hand just before reaching the Pole and the wound did not heal properly. He began to weaken both physically and emotionally and was making slow progress, thus delaying the party which was already short of food supplies and time. As his strength declined, his colleagues transported him by sled to the next supply depot.

Evans was brought to the supply depot tent and died on February 17, 1912. His body

was never found. Within a few days, Scott and the other three also died.

Edgar Evans' widow erected a plaque in his memory in the church at Rhossili. It bears the inscription: *"To seek, to strive, to find and not to yield"*, a suitable testimony to the first Welshman to reach the South Pole.

There is also a bust of Evans in the Swansea Museum and three glaciers are named after him in Antarctica.

Evans is also remembered at the naval shore establishment on Whale Island, Portsmouth, where the Edgar Evans Building was opened in 1964. The building was replaced by an accommodation block in 2010. The new building contains a memorial to Evans that includes two skis he used in Antarctica.

Evans had married before the first Antarctic Expedition in 1903 and on his wedding day the Rector of St. Mary's Church, Rhossili, said of Evans: *"He is robust and courageous to a degree. Like every truly brave man he is far from being boastful and requires considerable persuasion to make himself relate anything about himself"*.

Following Evans' death, the Mayor of Swansea said: *"The man from Gower links this locality with one of the most heroic exploits of the British race."*

### Photo Gallery of Recent Society Events

Here's where we look back on the great times we've had together this year, and look forward to the companionship we'll enjoy again once the crisis is past!

The year got off to a great start with the St. Dwynwen's Day festivities. The concert of Welsh and Irish music, hosted by the Vancouver Welsh Society and supported by the Irish Consulate, was a great success in February. We celebrated St. David's Day in March with a very successful open house and a wonderful catered dinner. Finally, the Twmpath sneaked in just before the

directive to social isolate was given and everyone had a great time despite a lower than usual number of attendees.

### *St. Dwynwen's Day* 25 January 2020

#### *St. Dwynwen's Day Limerick competition*

As is usual on St. Dwynwen's Day at the Red Dragon, we were entertained with a large number of witty and skillful limericks submitted by members. The place names, this year were "Wyk" (with predictable results!) and "Mold."

The Winner in the "Wyk" section was, in first place, #11, by **E. Wyn Roberts**:

There was an old woman from Wyk  
Who was sentenced to life in the nick.  
She'd topped her old man  
With a cast-iron pan.  
He deserved what he got, the old prick.

In Second place came #15, by **Marilyn Hames**:

An old plastic surgeon from Wick  
Did more than just help the sick.  
In his spare time  
He got out of line . . .  
So now looks like a young doc' named Dick.

Tied for third place were #17, by **Marilyn Hames**:

A big blousy barmaid from Wick,  
Told the sheriff I'll just be a tick . . .'  
Impressed by his star,  
She then closed the bar  
And handcuffed him to her – click, click.

and #10, by **E. Wyn Roberts**:

There was an old laddie from Wyck  
Who whacked his old wife with a stick.  
At that she got mad  
Hit back at the cad  
Now she's serving ten years in the nick.

In the "Mold" category, #11, by **Norma Dixon**, came in first:

The mayor of a Welsh town called Mold,  
Said, "I fear we sound mildewed and cold.  
But we'd surely win fame  
If we just changed our name  
To Llanfairpwllgwyllgogerychwyn -  
drowillantysiliogogoch**MOLD**

Followed by, for tied second place, #14 and # 17, both by **Eifion Williams**:

There was an old man from Mold  
Who once was a spy, we are told.  
When he left MI6,  
He starred in some flicks  
As a spy who came in from the cold.

There once was a young man from Mold  
Who was said to be harmless and bold.  
He once fought a shark  
In the waters off Sark  
And now he is armless and old.

This one, #16, also by **Eifion Williams**, came in 3<sup>rd</sup>:

There was an old lady from Mold,  
Who loved frozen dinners, we're told.  
She ate lots of fish  
But her favourite dish  
Was a pie that came in from the cold.



Many thanks to **David Llewelyn Williams** who organized the limerick competition and presided over the voting.



and to **Sharon McIntee-Birrell**, who entertained us with a selection of love songs, finishing with the perennial favourite, "The Rose."

### *Teithio i Vancouver* **Saturday 8 February**

This wonderful afternoon of Welsh and Irish music, with guest artists from Wales and Ireland featured **Dewi Garmon Jones** (French horn) and **Máire Carroll** (piano.) The concert was sponsored by the Irish Consulate. **Frank Flood**, Consul General

for Ireland in Vancouver, spoke of the warm friendship between the Irish and Welsh communities in Vancouver and looked forward to future shared events which will strengthen even more the bond between us. The Vice-Consul General, **Jennifer Bourke**, also attended the event.

Máire and Dewi entertained us with varied pieces by composers such as John Field, Frans Strauss and George Gershwin. The audience was invited to join in with a special arrangement of *Ar Hyd y Nos*. Máire also played some beautiful pieces of her own composition.



**Máire Carroll and Dewi Garmon Jones** with **Lynn Owens-Whalen**, President of the Vancouver Welsh Society, and **Frank Flood**, Consul General of Ireland



Máire Carroll



Máire and Dewi



Dewi Garmon Jones





Attendees enjoy the concert

*St. David's Day Dinner*  
Saturday 29 February

Members enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Just Right Catering and were entertained by **Leanne Page**, Celtic harpist and classically trained singer, and her son, **Connor**, who was also the piano accompanist for the evening.

The chair and MC was **President Lynn Owens-Whalen**, who also read the greetings from kindred societies. The blessing were said in Welsh by **Gaynor Evans** and in English by **Gillian Rogers**. **Anne Myfanwy Williams** gave the toast to Canada, **Jacqui Little** the toast to Wales, and **Ruth Baldwin** the toast to St. David.



*St. David's Day Open House*  
Saturday 1 March

These photographs were taken at this year's St. David's Day Open House at the Red Dragon where members celebrated Wales' patron saint with pageantry, performance and delicious *cawl cennin* and Welsh cakes.

Below:

President **Lynn Owens-Whalen** welcomes everyone to the celebration, **Jacqui Little** and **Roy Beavon** play the fanfare as members of the procession await their cue:





The ceremony ensues . . .



Deputy Mayor **Rebecca Bligh** reads the proclamation



. . . **Wynford Owen** and **Jackie Jones Chapman** entertain . . .



which member **Gillian Rogers** proudly holds up:





## The Welsh Society Twmpath Saturday 7 March

The twmpath was again a great success, although attendance was smaller this time, probably due to emerging worries about social contact. **The Rattlebone Band** distinguished itself once again with its fabulous accompaniment to the dancing.



and the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir sing beautiful Welsh pieces, including the beloved *Myfanwy*



to a rapt audience.



## *Obituaries*

### **Tora Anderson**

18 December 1937 – 9 January 2020



Tora passed away suddenly at home on 9 January 2020. She was predeceased by her husband John in April 2017. She is lovingly survived by her children: Simon (Susan), Sarah (Dan) and Judith; her grandchildren: Denton, Kevin, David, Rebecca, Nicola, Elise, Christopher, Benjamin and Liam and will be sorely missed by her good friend Bob Seibold.

Tora was always eager to come to Dylan Thomas and Welsh Society events whenever possible. She had been in both productions of "Under Milk Wood" put on at the Cambrian Hall, and often read at Dylan Thomas and Welsh Society events, especially at Christmas time.

### **Margaret Barclay**

20 September 1944 – 29 January 2020



Margaret Russell Barclay (née Kyriakidis) passed away on 29 January 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Scotland and moved to Vancouver with her family when she was 12 years old. She met her husband, Robin, in Hong Kong. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Margaret worked for the Vancouver School Board for twenty-three years. She was crowned "Queen of the VSB" because of her enthusiastic love of life that she shared at work and at home. Hers was an adventurous spirit; she loved to travel and was the first woman sky-diver in BC.

### **Leila Daniel**

30 October 1936 – 17 April 2020



Leila emigrated to Canada from Wales in 1965 and worked as a teacher in Prince Rupert, Powell River and Vancouver. She retired in 1985. Leila was a volunteer at the Maritime Museum in Kitsilano, travelled extensively and lived life to the full. She was earlier a member of the society for many years, and joined us at a few garden parties in more recent years.



## **In Memory of Dr. Irene Evans**

by  
Jane Byrne



Dr. Irene Evans

Dr. Irene Mary Evans, a long-time member of the Welsh Society, has passed away in Kelowna, BC. at the age of 91. Members knew her simply as Irene, a gentle, quiet-spoken and caring person who together with her late husband Gwilym played an active role in the Society for many years.

Irene was born and raised in the farming community of Marysburg, near Humboldt, Saskatchewan. She was the fourth of eight girls, three of whom survive her. Sisters Beatrice and Bernice still live in Saskatchewan, while Bernadine lives in Calgary.

Irene did not stay on the Prairies and anyone who knew her would not be surprised that she chose medicine as a career, given her caring nature. She was the first female intern at Shaughnessy Hospital in 1965. In that same year she married Gwilym Evans, who after receiving his medical qualifications in Wales, moved to BC, receiving his Canadian medical license in 1964.

Drs. Irene and Gwilym Evans ran a family medical practice in Richmond for 25 years. Both were highly regarded by their patients and valued by the community for their volunteer and charity work. One of Irene's more passionate interests was volunteering for Toastmasters for 12 years and for one of those years was the Chairperson for Toastmasters International. She also volunteered for many

years at numerous hospices in and around the Richmond area.

Irene and Gwilym took on many responsibilities in the Welsh Society. Both served on Society committees and both faithfully attended the Society's 'work days.' They were also regular attendees and frequent participants at the Society's monthly bilingual religious services. Irene was also a valuable helper at the Annual Spring Sale.

Gwilym passed away in February 2015 in Richmond. Shortly thereafter, Irene moved to Kelowna to be near her nephew, Eric Wesling. Eric was a comfort to her while she lived in Kelowna and he visited her daily. He informed members of the Welsh Society that Irene had a peaceful passing and that he spent the final four hours with her on October 30.

Members of the Welsh Society, together with her former patients and neighbours in Richmond, were very sorry to learn a few years ago that declining health had caused Irene to move to the Okanagan. But she was never out of their thoughts. All who knew her will always cherish their memories of Irene, a gentle and caring person who dedicated her life to serving others.

The Welsh Society's monthly bilingual church service on March 8 was dedicated to the memory of Irene Evans.

## **Jack Smith**

**2 November 1928 – 23 November 2019**



Jack passed away at the age of 91 in Kelowna. He was born in Swansea, Wales. Jack leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Bertha, his two daughters Deborah and Judith, his son David, and two grandchildren, Emma and Rhys as well as numerous family members located around the world.

As an professional engineer, Jack worked first in the oil and then in the pulp and paper industry. He remained true to his Welsh roots and participated in the Vancouver Welshman's Choir as well as Welsh and Scottish Country Dancing. Soccer was a passion and he was a coach, referee and member of the executive in Port Alberni, where the family lived for 30 years.



If you need a break from spring cleaning and sorting out your sock draw as we continue to physically, but not socially, isolate from each other, check out the wonderful 100 question Welsh quiz at [walesbooks.com](http://walesbooks.com). On page 15 (below) is a crossword puzzle for Welsh learners from [happyhere.co.uk](http://happyhere.co.uk) which has lots more fun puzzles. And now would be a very good time to hone your limerick writing skills so that we have a lots of good ones next year!

Remember to distance yourself from others, wash your hands regularly and stay home as much as possible. Social isolation is difficult and we encourage our members to use technology to stay in touch with friends in the Welsh Society and others often. And do email Lynn Owens-Whalen at [puffin49@telus.net](mailto:puffin49@telus.net) if you'd like to join on-line get-togethers with other society

members. They're a wonderful way to stay in contact during this difficult time and to enjoy each other's company – virtually!

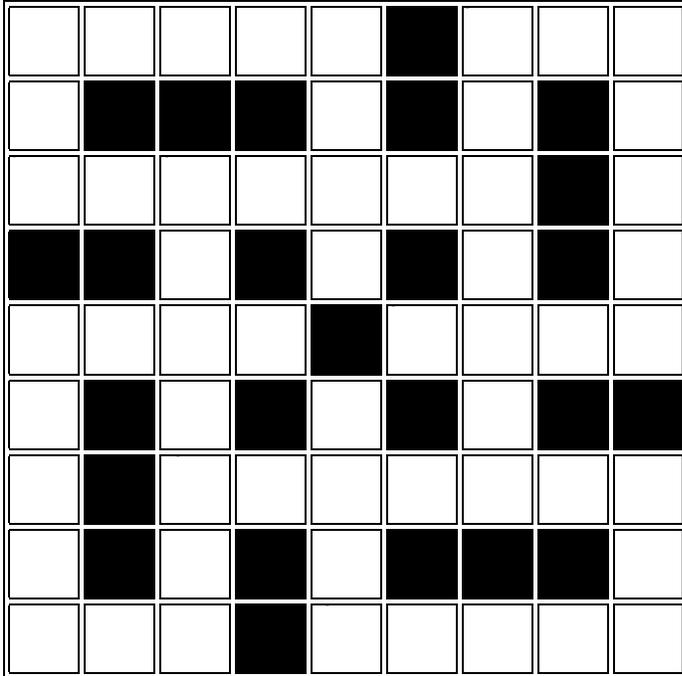
We also encourage our friends around the world to stay in touch with us in these challenging times.

In the meantime, stay safe everyone!

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



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## Ar Draws

1. (*m*) ivy (5)
3. (*adj-m*) sharp, severe (3)
5. (*f*) wasp (7)
7. (*m*) vengeance ; (*v*) to avenge (4)
8. (*prep*) in (4)
10. (*adj*) crystal ; (*m*) crystal (7)
12. (*particle*) not (3)
13. (*adj*) infrequent, rare (5)

## I Lawr

1. (*m*) ink (3)
2. (*adv*) formerly (4)
3. (*pl*) young women (7)
4. (*pl*) raspberries (5)
6. (*pl*) crabs, cranks (7)
7. (*m*) dozen (5)
9. (*adj*) limp (4)
11. (*m*) nonsense (3)