

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER
Cymdeithas Gymreig Vancouver

Cambrían News

Mis Mai 2021

May 2021

Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



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

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The Cambrian News

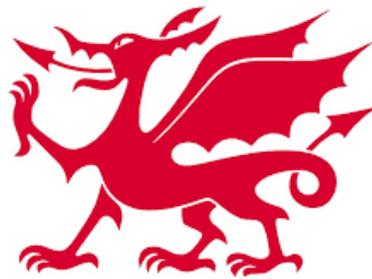
From the Editor:

As I sit at my computer preparing this third pandemic edition of the Cambrian News, the sun is shining through my window and the blossom on the cherry trees outside is bearing witness to the arrival of spring with its connotations of hope and its promise of renewal.

And despite our continued anxiety, there's plenty to be hopeful about. Although a third wave of COVID with new variants has arrived just when COVID fatigue is descending on many of us, the acceleration of the vaccination rollout offers hope that we will overcome this crisis that has caused so much suffering and that we'll eventually be able to spend time together and celebrate all that makes life joyful and fulfilling. At the Welsh Society, we look forward to sharing each other's company again at events in the Red Dragon and to celebrating the many special days in the Welsh Society calendar.

Right now we don't know how long it will be before we can be together again in person. Perhaps it will be sooner than we thought possible a short while ago. In the meantime, may you all be safe and well!

Ruth Baldwin
dysgwrcymraeg375@gmail.com



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 for current information.

Typical Monthly Events

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

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: 2nd and 3rd Mondays of the month the Red Cardigan Folk Club meets 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. **The Book Club is meeting on Zoom during the pandemic. The book for May is *War Doctor*, by David Nott. Please email for details: dysgwyrwymraeg375@gmail.com**

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

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/>

Did you know . . . ?

Welsh is now the fastest growing language in the U.K. with the number of new learners up 44% on 2019. Welsh is now so popular it is the ninth most popular language to learn in the country.

Welsh learners are also some of the most serious in the world, ranking third for most dedicated with the longest learning streaks (just behind Esperanto and Norwegian learners) and third for hardest working in the world, measured by the average number of completed lessons. To date over 1.5 million people have started learning Welsh on Duolingo.

The shift is down to people wanting to learn Welsh to connect with the country and see Welsh thrive as a language. This is partly driven by education, with 23% choosing school as their primary motivation – but it is also much broader. Many people

now want to learn because they have an interest in Welsh culture and heritage and want to brain train, like the Russian teenager who saw [Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlillantysiliogogoch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlillantysiliogogoch) and decided to learn Welsh because she fell in love with it.

2020 Duolingo Language Report: United Kingdom by **Colin Watkins**, December 15 2020. [Blog.duolingo.com](https://blog.duolingo.com/uk-language-report-2020/#welshisthefastestgrowinglanguageintheurk)
<https://blog.duolingo.com/uk-language-report-2020/#welshisthefastestgrowinglanguageintheurk>

Welsh Language Center Partners with Duolingo in Million Speakers Goal

An online language course created five years ago following a letter published in the Guardian is to be used to help reach a government target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Duolingo launched its Welsh language course in January 2016 and so far more than 1.5 million people around the world have been taught through it.

Now Duolingo and the National Centre for Learning Welsh have announced they will work together to help the Welsh government reach its 1 million target.

The Welsh government minister **Eluned Morgan**, whose portfolio includes the Welsh language, welcomed the partnership, saying: “We’ve set a goal of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, around a third of Wales’ current population, and in recent years we’ve seen a surge in demand for Welsh in early years and school-age learning.”

According to the latest government figures, 872,200 people in Wales speak Welsh, which is just under 29% of the population.

The Duolingo Welsh course was launched after a language tutor, **Richard Morse**, and

a Welsh learner, **Kathy Dobbin**, wrote to the Guardian suggesting the idea.

Morse gathered a team of Welsh speakers and created the course, which launched on St Dwynwen’s Day, the Welsh equivalent of St Valentine’s Day, in 2016.

Welsh is now the fastest-growing language being learned on Duolingo in the UK, with 474,000 people actively being taught. There are tens of thousands of learners in the US, and even one in Antarctica.

Morse said he was pleased at how successful it had been. “There is a large Welsh diaspora, especially in England,” he said. “Also within Wales there are many older people remembering their parents or grandparents not transmitting the language to them because of the mistaken belief that the children’s English would suffer.

“Within Wales there are many parents with children in Welsh-medium schools, a growing sector, who are time poor and don’t have the time to go to conventional classes but who want to learn some Welsh to help their children’s education. Duolingo’s focus on small discrete bits of learning to be done on a daily basis fits with so many people’s complicated lives.”

Morse said he was surprised at the lack of official interest in the course in the first couple of years but he believed that the current Welsh government was more engaged.

Efa Gruffudd Jones, the chief executive at the National Centre for Learning Welsh, said: “Creating and promoting opportunities for our learners to practise and enjoy their Welsh is an important part of our work at the National Centre and we’re delighted to be working in partnership with Duolingo.”

By **Steven Morris** in The Guardian, 24 January 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jan/24/duolingo-app-partners->

[welsh-language-centre-help-reach-goal-1-million-speakers](#)

For information about the Vancouver Welsh Society's FREE Welsh language lessons, given by **Dr. Antone Minard**, visit <http://www.welshsociety.com/Lab5/welsh-classes-at-the-cambrian-hall/>

Submissions by Members

Many members responded to **Marilyn Hames'** request for their stories, reflections and experiences as she wrote the dissertation for her Masters in Celtic Studies. Below is an open letter of thanks from Marilyn to all those who helped and a description of the course for members who might feel moved to take the course themselves. There is a link to Marilyn's dissertation at the end of the letter:

Llongyfarchiadau!

Well done folks—together we did it! — we earned a distinction for an MA Celtic Studies (subject to approval by the Board in June). What that means is that the dissertation, based on your input and the role of the VWS in helping maintain Welsh connections and culture in Vancouver, will be filed in the National Library of Wales, so shared. Without you, it could not have been done — so “Diolch yn fawr iawn.” Until we can raise a glass together, friends, take a bow!

Since January's *Newsletter* contained much of the introductory chapter and the ending, which you can access through the VWS website, rather than read a repeat of that, perhaps you might like to know how this all came about and what is involved should you be considering taking the MA yourself. Firstly, Antone — I hold you personally responsible for getting me “hooked” on trying to learn Welsh, and all those fellow

learners who met for classes in the Red Dragon on Thursday evenings can also count yourselves partners in that. Gwych! What fun and fellowship! Amazing! If you are not a regular, try it when we meet again. That sowed a little seed of curiosity which *hiraeth* nurtured, nudging me to investigate different ways of learning about Wales. The MA Celtic Studies is a distance-learning programme available through the UWTSO, so it seemed feasible, but it did stretch my computer skills in terms of working with Moodle to access the course notes, seminars and library and submit assignments via Turnitin. However, the pandemic has honed all our on-line skills as we have Zoomed around to visit with family or friends, plus the university IT support and e-resources are excellent now.

The degree involves taking six courses (three of which are compulsory) then preparing a dissertation. Each course takes one semester, except for Welsh language which takes two — an option I chose. My other five courses were:

- Conceptualising the Celts from Prehistory to the Modern Era;
- The Celtic Arthur and the Matter of Britain;
- Y Mabinogi;
- Celtic Otherworlds—from the Druids to the Monastic Voyage Tale,
- The Female Saints of Wales.

Each earned 20 points and the dissertation 60. I followed the “spiritual” track, but there is a selection of social or historical themes too.

Typically, these provide a solid foundation for the dissertation but, thanks to COVID, I could not access sufficient material on-line for my original topic — and I mean “thanks” because it meant the project developed along lines that allowed me to research the Welsh in B.C. and especially the role of the VWS. That also meant I got to know a lovely group of you much better. It will be a real

joy to pick up those friendships when we can meet face-to-face again.

Other benefits this could open up might be the possibility of publication, or of becoming more active with Welsh communities around the world so that I can share what I have learned in academic and social conversations.

For anyone interested in reading, or paging through, the full dissertation about why and how we try to maintain Welsh connections and culture in Vancouver, a link is provided:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4nt4simussq310b/MA%20Dissertation--MPAHames.pdf?dl=0>

Marilyn's dissertation covers the history of Welsh immigration to BC and the historic conditions that prompted the migration of Welsh people elsewhere.

Recent Society Events

St. David's Day Celebration

Saturday 27 February

Forty members of the Society met on Zoom for an abbreviated AGM followed by a celebration of St. David's Day with speeches, toasts, recitals and songs. The festivities began with an address by president **Lynn Owens-Whalen** (below).



Mary Lewis gave a short talk on the life of St. David, Patron Saint of Wales followed by an invitation to drink a toast to him. **Antone Minard**, in druidical garb (below),

recited the Gorsedd Prayer (or, the Druid's Prayer):

Grant, O God, Thy protection;
And in protection, strength;
And in strength, understanding;
And in understanding, knowledge;
And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice;
And in the knowledge of justice, the love of it;
And in that love, the love of all existences,
And in the love of all existences, the love of God.



Having recited the prayer, Antone called three times to the group, "*Oes heddwch?*" and the group replied each time, "*Oes!*" It was good to enact this important part of our usual bardic ceremony when we assemble in the Red Dragon to celebrate St. David's Day together. We hope to be back together at the hall for this special celebration next year! After we listened to (and, at home, sang along with) a beautiful rendition of "*Cwm Rhondda*," **Graham and Ruth Baldwin** sang the Welsh folk song "*Dacw 'Nghariad*." **Jackie Jones Chapman** (below) then movingly recited Max Boyce's moving poem, "*When Just the Tide Went Out*."



Russell Roberts (below) followed with a beautiful reading from the work of Dylan Thomas. Members will remember Russell for the well-loved musical evening with live original music, carols and readings from *A Child's Christmas in Wales* that we have traditionally enjoyed in the Red Dragon just before Christmas.



In closing the festivities, **Lynn Owens-Whalen** thanked everyone for joining in and led the singing of “*Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.*” What a great afternoon! Thanks to everyone who attended!

The celebration was MC'd by **Kathy Thomas** (below), with technical support from **Alcwyn Rogers**.



Jackie then joined **Alcwyn Rogers** (below) by way of a recording in the song “*Yma o Hyd*” (“Still Here”). As always, they gave a lovely performance.



Wynford Owen (below) gave a short talk on the recent history of Wales and invited members to raise their glasses to Wales in a toast. Wynford also recited, both in English and Welsh, an *englyn* written by his brother.



**Canada-Wide St. David's Day
Celebration**
Wednesday 3 March

Andrew Wagstaff, Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government's “Head of Canada,” hosted a Canada-wide celebration for St. David's Day on Zoom, inviting Welsh groups from across the country to

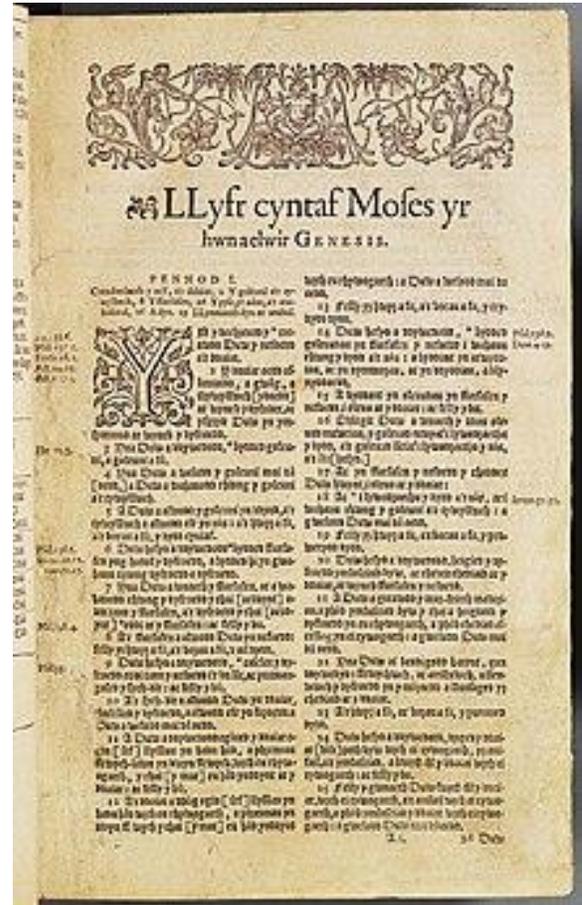
participate. Among the participants were members from the forty-strong Shuswap Welsh Society and Welsh Society members from Vancouver and Ottawa. We enjoyed a recording of Ottawa’s Snowbound Quartet singing “Myfanwy,” and listened to the Osborne Roberts’, “*Pan Fo’r Nos yn Hir*” from a performance at the Festival of Wales 2021 St. David’s Day celebration. It was great to join people of Welsh decent from across Canada to celebrate this important date and we thank Andrew very much for arranging this on-line event.

Recognize anyone?!



The First Welsh Language Bible was translated by **William Morgan** (1545? – 1604), Bishop of Llandaff and St. Asaph. Morgan was still studying at St. John’s College, Cambridge when **William Salesbury** published his Welsh New Testament in 1572, but Morgan thought it important that the Old Testament be translated into Welsh, too. William Morgan started work on his own translation (from the Greek and Hebrew) in the early 1580s and published it, together with a revision of Salesbury’s New Testament, in 1588. Morgan’s birthplace, *Tŷ Mawr Wyrbrnant*, near Betws Coed, has been preserved by The National Trust, as an historic house museum, but is closed at present. However, a copy of his Welsh Bible can be seen at St.

Ataph Cathedral, St. Ataph, North Wales, where it’s on permanent display. William Morgan’s Welsh Bible was used at the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales in 1969.



The first page of the Book of Genesis

In the Spring Edition of Britain’s National Trust Magazine, **Paul Highnam** writes that Morgan wanted to “bring the Word of God to his people,” but that the impact of “his 555-page Bible” went way beyond that. “It established Welsh as a learned language of Europe and a legitimate voice of the Church.” He states that the Acts of Union of 1536 and 1543 put Welsh language and culture “under threat” so that the language had “no status” in the Church or ordinary life. Now, Highnam says, “Morgan’s Bible is regarded as one of the most significant

steps in ensuring the survival of the Welsh language.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_translations_into_Welsh

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Morgan_\(Bible_translator\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Morgan_(Bible_translator))

nationaltrust.org.uk

Book Reviews

Luke Upton: *Hard Men of Rugby*, 2020. Published by Y Lolfa. 216 pp.

In all sporting activities, both team and individual, there are individual performers who display not only skills at a high level but other attributes such as belief, motivation, a determined mindset, an inner voice that drives them on and physicality. It is this final attribute, physicality, that **Luke Upton** spotlights in his book *Hard Men of Rugby* as the key characteristic of “rugby union’s hard men” from teams around the world. They are players “who never take a backward step in a physical challenge.”

Luke has written an entertaining, enthralling and memory-generating book of events and tackles involving his choice of the game’s hardest men. It will be interesting if readers of “Love Wrexham” agree with his choices.

I am sure that all readers, with experience as players or spectators, will conjure up names of local “hard men” who have played for Wrexham, Rhosllanerchrugog, Chester or Gogledd Cymru. However the level of “hardness” at international and representative rugby is at a far greater “body shuddering” level. In an excellent foreword, **Nigel Owens**, the outstanding Welsh referee, draws the distinction between the

“hard player and the dirty player.” I am certain that before the increased use of technology and the citing commissioner, thuggery in certain games was rampant. To his credit, the author gives no credence to mindless thugs, cheats or cowards. His focus is on players with high skill levels who, in addition, are tough both physically and mentally in their desire and determination to succeed.

The stories from a range of eras illustrate the physical strength and “hardness” of players at international level. Many developed immense strength by toiling in their place of work, players such as **Colin Meads**, (a farmer) and **Bobby Windsor**, (a steel worker). Others were natural physical warriors, players such as **Paddy Mayne**, **Brian Thomas** and **Sebastien Chabal**. The author contrasts these “hard men” with modern-day players such as **Martin Johnson**, **Alun Wyn Jones** and **Scott Gibbs** whose strength and commitment were developed more by power weight training, strength and endurance exercises in the Gym and on playing areas around the world.

In a well researched and easily read book, Upton takes the reader on a journey which is nostalgic, humourous and thought provoking. The exploits of **Trevor Brennan**, **Gerard Cholley**, **Weary Dunlop**, and the physical tackling strength of players such as **Jerry Collins**, **Jacques Burger**, **Sebastien Chabal** and the Welshman **Scott Gibbs** stay long in the memory. **Ian McGeechan** talks about players such as Gibbs, who are never prepared to be second and have an animal instinct for “control.” Readers will have their own special moment or incident that highlights memories of “hardness.” I reflected on **Wayne Shelford**’s tackling, Gibb’s battering ram try against England, **Willie John McBride** and the “999” call on the Lions tour in South Africa and many other special moments.

However, for me the outstanding hard man was **JPR Williams** for his tackle on **Francois Gouda** in 1976 to effectively win the Grand Slam for Wales. Read and enjoy this excellent book as it re-kindles memories of “hard men of rugby.”

Mike Potts: *Untangling the Knot, Belugas and Bears: My Natural World on Film*. 2020. Whittle Publishing. 288 pp.

The current financial climate has resulted in many individuals and families experiencing social isolation, “furlough,” redundancy, reduced working hours and, in some cases, unemployment and financial hardship. As a result, there has been a surge in uptake of previously forsaken and new hobbies and skills, including physical activities such as cycling, running, walking, painting, decorating, joinery, craftwork, gardening, bird watching, and technology skills, in an attempt by individuals to change direction and re-generate personal “enthusiasm” in their lives during a difficult on-going social agenda.

In a recent exhilarating book, *Untangling the Knot, Belugas and Bears*, **Mike Potts** takes the reader on an exciting and adventurous journey from his humble background in Oldbury where he started work at fifteen on a farm on wages of £2.50p for a 48 hour week. A range of work experiences followed, including one at Dudley zoo where he was an animal keeper, another at **Peter Scott**’s wildfowl trust where he gained experience catching ducks for ringing and, in another in Conwy, where he developed techniques for hatching and rearing oysters.

It becomes clear at an early stage in the text that Mike Potts does not shy away from a challenge or hard work as he transforms his interest in animals, fish and birds into work projects and “exciting employment experiences.” It was whilst in Anglesey that

he re-connected with his hobby of photography and the awe-inspiring photographs which accompany the text are testimony to his developed skills as a cameraman. Readers who are bird watchers will be aware that sightings and opportunities for photographs take time and patience whilst “waiting for things to happen.” As the author comments, “I’m used to spending eight hours at a stretch cooped up in a little canvas box,” as he reflects on the hours spent filming his experiences in Alaska, the Bering Islands and the Yukon Delta.

The main theme of the book, “Untangling the Knot, Belugas and Bears,” becomes clear to the reader when the author details his expedition to Ellesmere Island in Arctic Canada, the largest island in the world. Within this section the excellent photographs of the Knot birds, the shorebird that breeds at the “top of the world,” add real insight to the text. In the same section the pictures of Beluga Whales, which are vulnerable to attack by Polar Bears in shallow water, bring increased insight into the dangers that lurk in the wild.

The range of journeys that the author takes the reader on underline both the excitement and potential dangers that Mike and his associates faced. The pictures of the trip to the Dragon Islands in Indonesia and Potts’ meeting with the Komodo dragon, which are massive lizards, are “spine chilling.” The book comes alive with the trip to the Highlands of New Guinea where the team are confronted by groups of traditionally dressed warriors with bows and arrows and home made shotguns. Mike and his team see clear indications of “clan wars” with people killed and burnt out villages. As the author stresses, “Where’s the satisfaction in doing something easy?”

The text is greatly enhanced by outstanding photographs of the eclectus parrot, palm cockatoos, bower birds, and the adventures

undertaken in search of such wonderful photographs conjured up in me great admiration for the author and his associates as they cope with extreme difficulties in getting the “right camera shot” and with personal safety issues. Experiences of “living rough,” making do with the “diet of food” available, and facing the dangers of brown bears, desert locusts, polar bears, birds of paradise, lizards and warriors make for exhilarating, insightful and informative reading of the adventures pursued by the author and his team in their search for truly exceptional photographs.

Bird lovers will enjoy the sections on the trips to the Cape York peninsular in the far north of Australia, in close proximity to New Guinea and Cuba which the author describes as “Nature’s Treasure Island.” Potts’ greatest desire was to reach the Antarctic, “the last great wilderness on the planet.” He describes how he was “mesmerised” on his journey by ship at the sight of the albatross, Auckland Island bears and penguins. He proudly followed the trail of **Shackleton**’s expedition across the endless snowy wastelands and was “struck by the enormity, magnificence, and beauty of this desolate place.” He was in awe of the incredible achievements and sacrifices of the early explorers.

After reading this outstanding book, I extend my admiration to Mike Potts and his team for their efforts, courage and sacrifice in securing such insightful pictorial evidence of the wild life world for the reader. This is an inspirational account of how a young man from a humble background in Oldbury followed his passion for wildlife and entered the “dragon’s den” of pursuing a new experience, taking opportunities and realising outstanding achievement and recognition for his work. The book provides a truly inspirational insight which will hopefully not only be read by wild life and bird lovers to improve their knowledge base,

but also inspire those facing a “difficult future” as a result of the pandemic, to look for an opportunity to embark on a “new journey” and gain the confidence and determination to take up the challenges and sacrifices necessary to gain success.

Lois Arnold, Elin Meek, Cynan Llwyd, Marek Lewis, Mererid Hopwood and Meleri Wyn James: *Agor y Drws: Six New Stories for Learners*, 2020. Access Level. Published by Y Lolfa. 48 pp.



This is an outstanding collection of six easy-to-read stories based on a wide range of “relevant to life” scenarios, specifically for adults learning Welsh. In this difficult period of lockdowns and restrictions on interaction, the numbers of adults learning the Welsh language using electronics-driven teaching has quadrupled both in Wales and worldwide. Y Lolfa, the publishers, are to be congratulated on “filling a gap in the market” by publishing this excellent inspirational, enjoyable and relevant collection of stories in “small book” format. The skills of the authors and choice of “topics relevant to life skills” will help develop speaking and writing skills, and expand vocabulary. This book is highly recommended.

Ed: Many thanks to **John Teifi Morris**, who wrote these insightful reviews.

Learners' Corner

Do you lie awake at night worrying about mutations? Nor do I, but I do find them quite difficult to learn and apply, especially as opportunities to practice *speaking* Welsh aren't all that frequent. In a very amusing article on the Cymdeithas Madog website entitled "Mutations and Their Side Effects," **Diana Moller** offers a nifty mnemonic device, courtesy of **Lucinda Myers**, to help learners remember the nine letters that are affected:

Put That Cow Back Down, Gooper.
Memorize Llama Rhapsodies.

Unfortunately, there's no mnemonic trick for learning where and when to apply the mutations, which is the greatest pain in the proverbial for learners. Oh, well.

The rest of Diana's very funny (and helpful) treatise on mutations can be found at the address below, and it's well worth looking up.

<http://www.madog.org/gwefan/index.php/cymdeithas-madog/materials-for-learners/41-dysgwyr/hiwmor/102-humour-mutations-and-their-side-effects>

Gwyddonydd 1: Wyt ti isio clywed jôc am Sodiwm?
Gwyddonydd 2: Na

Limerick Competition!

We all missed David's annual limerick competition this year at the Hall, but if you'd like to submit one (or two or three) to the newsletter, the best will appear in subsequent newsletters. The towns to choose from this time are:

Cwmbran and Chirk

Please use either of the two following traditional rhyme schemes for limericks:

Eight syllables for lines one, two and five
and five syllables for lines three and four.

or

Nine syllables for lines one, two and five
and five syllables for lines three and four.

There was a young lady (old woman, young lad etc., etc.) from . . .

The Cambrian News is issued three times a year, in January, May and September.



Byddwch yn iach ac arhoswch yn ddiogel!

Be Well and Stay Safe!

“Stop Press”

North American Festival of Wales Moves to Utica, NY

September 2-5, 2021

It has been a long 14 months and we are all ready to take a step toward normal. This message is to update you on plans for the 2021 North American Festival of Wales. We realize the COVID situation is ever-evolving and, for the first time, it looks like we are on the right side of this fight. The board of the Welsh North American Association feels strongly that the best course of action for the organization is to take a small step forward and hold an in-person event in September for those who are comfortable attending.

We realized several months ago that our biggest obstacle was the U.S.-Canada border closure. Unfortunately, we just learned that it has been extended another month. As a result, we are unable to move forward with planning an in-person event in Ottawa. We plan to return to Ottawa in 2025. We have decided to relocate the 2021 festival to **Utica, New York**. Utica has strong Welsh roots and the ‘national gymanfa ganu’ has been held there many times in the past, most recently in 1996.

Plans are under way and we ask that you bear with us as we navigate these new times. We assure you that in every stage of the planning we will follow guidelines from the CDC and New York State Department of Health. If you feel comfortable, we hope you will join us as we continue to preserve and promote our Welsh heritage.

Hotel booking will be available early May and we are working to get a tentative schedule out as soon as possible. We anticipate the event will start on **Thursday, September 2, and end on Sunday, September 5**. At this time, we do not plan to run auxiliary tours. However, Utica and the surrounding area have a lot to offer if you plan to extend your stay and explore on your own. We want to eliminate as many variables as possible before opening registration, and therefore aim to do so by July 1.

As always, please reach out to me with questions and I will do my best to assist; wnaahq@gmail.com.

Key Dates:

4 May: Hotel reservations available

1 July: Registration opens

2 September: Festival starts

Megan Williams

Executive Secretary

On Behalf of the WNAA Board of Trustees

Ed: Please check the NAFOW Website for the latest information.



It's showtime!

CHECK OUT OUR DRAGONS' TREASURES SILENT AUCTION NOW!

All of our great items can be found [here](#).

And don't miss out! We just released more auction items for you to bid on today!

Don't have your account set up yet? Be sure to "[Create an Account](#)" if you want to participate in the bidding process.

It's super easy! After arriving on our auction site from the link above, follow the instructions as described under the Dragons' Treasures heading. It doesn't get any easier than that!

**Feel free to share the Dragons' Treasures link with your friends,
family and contacts!**

Any Questions? Check out the FAQ by clicking "Help" top right corner of the auction site page.

Thank you for supporting the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir!



I wonder if you would be willing to draw attention to our Welsh language sessions which are tailored for parents in particular but are also suitable for Nain and Taid, people working with young children and anyone who wishes to learn some basic Welsh (including plenty of nursery rhymes!). The sessions are free, available virtually and you can follow them from anywhere around the world! The sessions will run for 8 weeks and will start w/b 3rd of May. I enclose a poster advertising my sessions but there are plenty of courses available on different days and on different times. Here is the Clwb Cwtsh FB page for you to see more details:

[\(20+\) Clwb Cwtsh | Facebook](#)

Diolch yn fawr
Anna

Anna Yardley Jones
Swyddog Ti a Fi Teithiol Gwynedd / Swyddog Clwb Cwtsh

The Three Rivers Welsh Folk Dancers of Pittsburgh present an afternoon of Calan Mai traditions on 8 May from 3:00 to 5:00 pm (check the time for your time zone). Author Jane Blank will join live from Wales sharing May Day folklore. Jane's book Nanteos: The Dipping Pool, begins on Beltane Eve. Edward Morus Jones will teach the traditional Cadi Ha song live from Wales. Soprano Katherine Crusi will sing a traditional Welsh May Carol. Ruthanne E. Ankney will share Welsh folktales & music. The program will also include beautiful Welsh poetry and festive contributions from the dancers. David Bennett will play a set of enchanting Welsh folk dance tunes on Cello. Actor Laurence Beck will entertain us with Welsh readings and singing. Pittsburgh based dance historian, musician and author of several May Day customs books, Allison Thompson will join the panel of speakers. Rhodi Jones (Welsh Folk Dance Society) will also join us live from Wales. There will be friendly interactive fun! This will be a joyful celebration of many old customs, music, dance, storytelling and folklore for all. Join the fun! Great way to learn about your Welsh heritage. Sing along to Welsh folk songs and enjoy our panel of talented performers, authors and historians.
Contact walesinthemorn@gmail.com to receive your Zoom link.
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