

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

*Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver*

*Cambrian News*

Hydref  
2012

October  
2012

*Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas*



*Jubilee Garden Party*

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

## VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

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## *The Cambrian News*

From The Editor:

Many activities of the Society in the past months should have been recognized but alas, I had no material. I am grateful to Gwilym Evams for the photo of the Jubilee Garden Party in August and to Lynn Owens-Whalen for recording my performance at Scranton. I am once again grateful to Eifion Williams for his contribution detailing the biographies of the participants at the forthcoming Celebration. The other events rely on the information that Alcwyn and Gillian have placed on the website. I am grateful to Eric Davies for informing us that Joy Cornock this summer won the Vocal Solo over 21 competition at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. You can hear her singing on the Eisteddfod site. It's a beautiful performance.

As you will see, the events listed take us to the end of 2012 – another year past! So make sure you support the many enriching events that your Executive and Social Committee have arranged for your enjoyment. Do also consider being at the Annual General Meeting to have some input into the Society's future.

Finally, a word about Dafydd Iwan's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour. He is touring Wales during October but he will be in London on November 10<sup>th</sup> and on the 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a special concert in Llandudno together with Elin Fflur and the Rhuthun Choir – whose conductor is the composer, Robat Arwyn. What an experience! Worth a trip?

David Llewelyn Williams

## *Forthcoming Events*

**Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 am till 3:00. Work Party Day** A delicious home made lunch will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm**  
**Welsh Lesson**

### *Vancouver Celebrates Wales*

**Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm for 7pm**  
**Anniversary Dinner at the Cambrian**

**Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Vancouver Welsh Society and West Point Grey United Church will present Vancouver Celebrates Wales; an Evening of Entertainment with guest artists directly from Wales.**

**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am**  
**Bilingual Church Service followed by a Tê Bach. At 2pm we will hold our traditional Gymanfa Ganu, also followed by a Tê Bach**

Plans are moving ahead for the Vancouver Celebrates Wales weekend of events, November 2-4.

The Welsh Society's Social Committee received a setback last week when Llanelli Male Voice Choir's Musical Director Eifion Thomas was forced to cancel his appearance due to the illness of a close family member. However, on Eifion's recommendation, another Llanelli native, baritone Gary Griffiths, has agreed to perform at the Point Grey United Church concert on November 3. At the Evening of Entertainment in the Church, audiences will enjoy the talents of an impressive list of performers:

**Gary Griffiths** is an emerging artist in the operatic world, having studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he won the prestigious Gold Medal Competition. Often referred to as "the next Bryn Terfel". Gary is currently an Associate Artist at Welsh National Opera, wherein 2011 he made his professional debut as Guglielmo in a new production of *Così fan Tutte*. He was the winner of the Welsh Singers Competition in 2012 and will represent Wales at the Cardiff Singer of the World competition in 2013. He also enjoys a busy schedule of concert recitals throughout the UK and abroad. Gary will perform at the November 3 Evening of Entertainment and will also sing at the *Gymanfa Ganu* on Sunday November 4.

Also performing will be **Nerys Jones**, a popular mezzo-soprano from Seattle. Nerys was born in Llanfair Caereinion in Mid-Wales and studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Art and the Guildhall School of Music. She has performed with the world's leading opera companies and has also hosted her own television show *Yng Nghwmni Nerys Jones* on the Welsh television station S4C. Nerys has performed with the Puget Sound Opera and the Seattle Opera. Last fall she performed at the West Coast Eisteddfod in Los Angeles and conducted the Seattle Welsh Society's annual *Gymanfa Ganu*. Nerys will sing at the Concert and the *Gymanfa*

Another visiting performer from Wales is **Huw Evans**, an accomplished musician from Neath, South Wales. Huw attended Trinity College of Music in London where he studied voice, flute and viola. A passionate devotee of Welsh folk music, he has performed at folk festivals and clubs around the UK as

well as in Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland. Huw is a lawyer by profession but still maintains that his first love is music. As well as singing in the Concert, Huw will be the featured performer at the Anniversary Dinner on November 2 and will also sing at the Sunday morning bilingual service on November 4.

**Katie Procter**, who was born in Newport, Gwent, studied Biological chemistry at Leicester University before moving to Vancouver in 2010. She began singing at an early age and has sung with a number of well-known choirs. Prior to moving to Vancouver, Katie performed as a soloist with one of Wales' most prestigious choirs, the award winning Caldicot Male Voice Choir. She says the highlight of her career was singing in England's beautiful Canterbury Cathedral. Katie will be performing at the Concert.

**Jonathan Quick**, Musical Director of the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir, needs no introduction to Vancouver audiences. A UBC graduate in voice, composition and conducting, his musical talents have led him to work in conducting, composing, arranging, sound recording, editing and singing. Jonathan has worked with many choirs and has been a soloist with the Vancouver Chamber Choir, the Vancouver Cantata Singers, Chor Leoni and the West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir. As part of the November 3 Evening of Entertainment, Jonathan will conduct a representative choir of members from the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and the Vancouver Orpheus Choir, which will also feature soloist **Natasha Neufeld**. He will also conduct the Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday afternoon. **Natasha Neufeld** is a Vancouver native.

She holds a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. Her post-secondary music studies were in oboe, piano, and voice. Natasha also studied voice in Toronto and at the Voice Pedagogy Program at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg. During her studies she sang with the UBC Chamber Singers, with Opera in Concert in Toronto, with the Bach Choir in Salzburg and in the church choir of one of the largest Austrian cathedrals. She is a soprano with the Vancouver Chamber Choir, directs the Richmond Singers, an all women 55 voice choir, and teaches singing and piano in South Delta, Richmond and Vancouver.

The accompanist at the Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday will be **Barry Yamanouchi**, the regular accompanist for the Vancouver Orpheus Choir since 1994. A graduate of UBC School of music and McGill University, Barry is much in demand as an accompanist for a number of theatre companies and Lower Mainland choirs. Barry has won high praise in recent years as the accompanist at the Welsh Society's regular Gymanfa Ganu at the Cambrian Hall

**On Saturday, November 3, from 10.30 to 4.00 pm the Dylan Thomas Circle will hold its AGM in the lower floor of the Cambrian hall. A mini poetry festival featuring four invited poets will follow and a Mummer's play may also be featured as well as a performer on an acoustic guitar.**

**Tickets for the November 3 Evening of Entertainment at West Point Grey United Church at \$10 are available from Neville Thomas (604-294-4332) and from Gaynor Evans (271-3134)**

**Tickets for the Anniversary Dinner, catered by Jordan's International Food designs, are available from Gaynor Evans (604-271-3134) Those wishing to attend should book early as tickets for both events are limited.**

**Later events:**

**Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
Executive Meeting.**

**Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon The  
Cambrian Bookworms will discuss  
"Arctic Chill" by Amaldur Indridason**

**Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am  
Welsh speaking - Siarad Cymraeg**

**Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
Welsh Lesson**

**Monday, November 26<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 am till  
3:00. Work Party Day A delicious  
home made lunch will be provided.**

**Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30 pm  
Traditional Mulled Wine Evening  
Mulled Wine (or Cranberry Cocktail)  
and Carol Singing Evening**

**Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30 pm  
Welsh Lesson**

**Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
Executive Meeting.**

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 am  
Bilingual Christmas Carol Service  
followed by a Tê Bach.**

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm  
Children's Christmas Party**

**Please forward your children's or  
grandchildren's names and ages to  
Gaynor Evans (604-271-3134)  
[fgevans@telus.net](mailto:fgevans@telus.net) by November 15.**

**Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8.30 pm  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
This is of great importance to the future  
of the Society; please attend, offer your  
services and vote for next year's  
Executive.

**Wednesday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon The  
Cambrian Bookworms will discuss  
"The Nine Lives of Charlotte Taylor" by  
Sally Armstrong.**

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm  
CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
Catered by Jordan's International Food  
Designs, we will enjoy a traditional  
Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings.  
Tickets will be available from Gaynor  
Evans (604-271-3134)

**Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am  
Welsh speaking - Siarad Cymraeg**

**Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
Welsh Lesson**

**The North American Festival of Wales  
Scranton, Pennsylvania  
August 30 to September 2, 2012**

Lynn and Wilf Owens-Whalen and I  
attended the Festival and it turned out an  
unforgettable experience. Of course  
much was a result of the presence of  
Dafydd Iwan but there were very many  
additional bonuses. Cinema Wales  
showed 30 minute films on Megan  
Lloyd George, Phillip Jones Griffiths  
and Iris Williams. I attended two talks,  
one on the Welsh in Scranton and also

one on the Avondale Mine Disaster (69 Welsh miners are buried in a local cemetery).

Locally I visited the Steamtown Museum, a National Historic site which chronicles in great detail the rise and fall of the Steam Engine and the local railroad to New York. We were also welcomed by the Mayor at a ceremony which included the raising of the Welsh Flag. Lynn and Wilf lived in the Lackwanna Inn, a beautifully restored former railroad station. A local church, which served as the venue for both the Grand Concert and the two Gymanfas was impressive with a magnificent organ but no air conditioning!

The opening concert featured Welsh folk singer and former Plaid Cymru President, Dafydd Iwan who kept us royally entertained for close to two hours. This concert was part of his tour celebrating 50 years as a singer. I was fortunate too after the concert to meet Gwenno Dafydd, a Facebook friend for many years. She has produced two new Apps; one singing the National Anthem and one singing her St. David's song, "Cenwch y Clychau i Dewi".

The Gala Awards Banquet honoured Beth Landmesser who was instrumental in planning and organizing this year's NAFOW and has served as Program Chair in successive years since 2007. The entertainment following the dinner was brilliantly and amusingly performed by Iris Williams, brought up in an orphanage in Wales, but whose musical talent shone through and allowed her to triumph. She was awarded an OBE by the Queen for her charitable works. She sang two songs in Welsh, two in French and several in English in a style

reminiscent of Nat King Cole. Later in the evening at the Open Mic event M.C.'d by Dafydd Iwan, I had the privilege to perform Cynan's poem *Aberdaron* with audience participation in the chorus in Welsh and in my English translation. It went well.



Earlier on Friday I had won the open recitation; the set piece was a poem I first learnt at age 15 – *Y Llwynog* by Robert Williams Parry – my favourite poet! – so sixty years later! Saturday I was able to present the poem again at the Eisteddfod Winners Concert. This time, I was able to first provide my English translation and then recite the Welsh; both were received with enthusiasm.

The Grand Concert this year featured the mixed choir, *Côr Godre'r Garth* from Pontypridd, under the direction of their conductor Eilir Owen Griffiths. The accompanist was Branwen Evans and several pieces featured soloist Hannah Owen Griffiths. The first half consisted of a selection of Welsh and other pieces, whereas the second half featured the North American première of his work *Coro Angelicus*. Unfortunately the heat in the church caused several to leave for health concerns at the intermission but

those who stayed enjoyed a remarkable performance, which included organist Stephen Williams and a percussionist.

The evening continued with Pub Night, hosted by Dafydd Iwan who responded to all requests. To give him a couple of breaks, I was able to present some poetry with translation; some by Harri Webb and later one by Jason Walford Davies about the Cynheidre Pit disaster, which I thought might be appropriate given Scranton's history. I think they went well. We concluded the evening with a rousing rendition of *Yma o Hyd*.

On the Sunday morning there was a Church Service, which included a memorial to those members who had passed during the year. A rose was selected for each member, which on this occasion included both Phyllis Owens and Uta Williams. Wilf, Lynn and I sat together at this moving service.

Sunday afternoon and Sunday evening, two Gymanfa Ganu sessions were held in the Elm Street Church. The conductor was Gareth Hughes Jones, a former conductor of the Côr Meibion Caernarfon. The organist was David Enlow, the Organist and Choir Master of the Church of the Resurrection in New York City. Côr Godre'r Garth and the David G. Morris Memorial Award Winner, soprano Elizabeth Shoemaker also sang at these sessions.

Upon our return to the hotel, informal singing in the lobby, led by Edward Morus Jones, continued into the night.

For me, the Festival was an enriching experience. I renewed acquaintances from the Portland Festival two years ago; I met several Facebook friends and

I made a number of new friends. I also can't emphasize enough the significance of Dafydd Iwan's presence. I returned home in a much more positive frame of mind and look forward to next year's Festival which will be held in Toronto.

David Llewelyn Williams

### **The first woman to become Archdruid will lead the 2013 National Eisteddfod ceremonies.**

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, at the Proclamation Ceremony for the 2013 National Eisteddfod in Denbigh, it was announced that Christine James will be the new Archdruid who will take up her duties in 2013. Her first duty will be the Proclamation of the 2014 Eisteddfod in June after which she will preside at the Eisteddfod in Denbigh in August. The Archdruid serves for a term of three years.

Mrs. James is the first woman to become Archdruid; even more remarkably, she is the first Welsh learner to fulfill this role. Originally from Tonypany in the Rhondda Valley, she was brought up in an English-speaking household and learnt Welsh at school in Porth and at Aberystwyth University.

Her command of the language is evident, since she won the Crown at the Eryri and District National Eisteddfod in 2005 for her collection of poems entitled *Lluniau Lliw*, inspired by famous works of art at National Museum Cardiff. She was admitted into the Gorsedd of Bards in 2002. She is a Senior Lecturer at the Hywel Teifi Academy, Swansea University and lives in Cardiff.

The Vancouver Welsh Society  
and  
West Point Grey United Church  
present

*Vancouver Celebrates Wales  
an evening of entertainment  
featuring artists from Wales  
and Vancouver*

West Point Grey United Church,  
4595 West 8th Vancouver  
Saturday, November 3rd at 7:00 pm

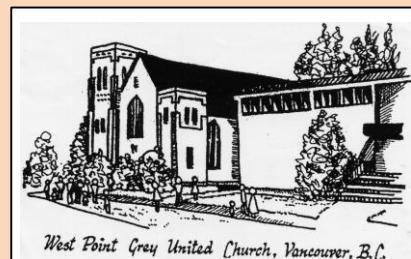
Tickets \$10.00

Phone: 604 294-4332 or 604 271-3134

Email: [nkthomas@shaw.ca](mailto:nkthomas@shaw.ca)



[WelshSociety.com](http://WelshSociety.com)



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





# Vancouver Celebrates Wales

- Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm **ANNIVERSARY DINNER.**
- Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> The **DYLAN THOMAS CIRCLE** will meet between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm.
- Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm An **EVENING of ENTERTAINMENT** featuring artists from Wales and Vancouver at WEST POINT GREY UNITED CHURCH.
- Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>. at 11:00 am **BILINGUAL CHURCH SERVICE** followed by Tê Bach. (Light Refreshments).
- Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>. at 2:00 pm A traditional **GYMANFA GANU** (Hymn Singing Festival). This will be followed by Tê Bach (Light Refreshments).

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All events other than the Evening of Entertainment will be held at The Cambrian Hall,  
215 East 17th. Ave., Vancouver.

We extend a cordial welcome to all.

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For more information go to,  
[www.WelshSociety.com](http://www.WelshSociety.com) or Phone: 604 876-2815