

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Gwanwyn
2015

Spring
2015

Society Newsletter – Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



St, David's Day Dinner and Concert

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

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

Officers:

President:

David Llewelyn Williams

Vice-President:

Antone Minard

Secretary:

Angela Smith
mail@welshsociety.com

Treasurer:

Gaynor Evans

Membership Secretary:

Don Smith

Immediate Past President:

Jane Byrne

Directors:

Heather Davies

Gwyn Evans

Patricia Morris

Mathew Parry

Alwyn Rogers

Contacts

Building Committee:

Patricia Morris

Cambrian Circle Singers:

Nerys Haqq

Church Service:

Varied

Welsh Speaking Group:

Rentals:

RichardWilliams 604-340-8545

Social Events Committee:

Gillian Rogers

[\(Gillian.Rogers@shaw.ca\)](mailto:Gillian.Rogers@shaw.ca)

Webmaster:

Alwyn Rogers

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

Newsletter Editor:

David Llewelyn Williams

[\(williams@phas.ubc.ca\)](mailto:williams@phas.ubc.ca)

Cambrian Hall

604-876-2815

The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This issue can perhaps be called the Saints issue since it reports on our society's participation in celebrating St. Dwynwen, our Patron Saint of Lovers; Saint David, our National Patron Saint, and Saint Patrick, initially kidnapped from Wales to slavery in Ireland, escaping and subsequently returning as a missionary to save the Irish.

This issue also, sadly, pays tribute to the memory of four of our members. I am grateful to Liz Murray for the information regarding Don, to Keith's daughter Pamela for the information on Keith Williams, to Lynn Owens-Whalen for Jessie Dodds' obituary and to Nerys Haqq for Lucy Sorensen's obituary.

Another longtime member, Dr. Gwilym Evans, passed away on February 2nd. He contributed so much to our society over the years, even last year serving as Vice President. I shall miss his advice and company. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife, Dr. Irene Evans.

Most photographs at the St. David's Day Event were taken by Nicolas Williams, but the afterglow one was taken by Gwyn Evans and the one of Angela Smith by Anne Williams. Gwyn Rhys Jones videotaped the event and it is on Utube. (see p 11 for the code).

Those at the Surrey Celtic Fest were contributed by Pat Morris; the two on the St. Patrick's Trolley were taken by Thomas Viccars of the Royal Society of St. George and Paul Lievesley sent his car picture from the procession. Grateful thanks to all!

David Llewelyn Williams

Forthcoming Events

Thursday, April 2nd at 6.30 pm

Welsh Lessons

Monday, April 6th at 7.30 pm

Executive Meeting

Wednesday, April 8th 11 am till 2 pm

Spring Sale DROP OFFs accepted.

Wednesday, April 8th at 12.00 noon
Cambrian Bookworms; the book this month is *The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty.

Friday, April 10th at 11 am till 2 pm

The Cambrian Circle Singers will be performing at Broadway Pentecostal Lodge.

Sunday, April 12th at 11.00 am

Church Service followed by t  bach
Spring Sale DROP OFFs accepted.

Monday, April 13th at 7.30 pm

GENERAL MEETING

Spring Sale DROP OFFs accepted.

Wednesday April 15th from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm DROP OFF and SETUP for the Grand Spring Sale, Volunteers needed, lunch will be provided.

Thursday, April 16th at 6.30 pm

Welsh Lessons

Friday April 17th from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm DROP OFF and SETUP for the Grand Spring Sale. Volunteers needed, lunch will be provided.

Monday, April 20th at 10.30 am
Welsh Speaking – Siarad Cymraeg

Monday April 27th from 10am to 3pm. Work Party Day. A delicious lunch will be provided. See you there.

Monday, May 4th at 7.30 pm

Executive Meeting

Thursday, May 7th at 6.30 pm

Welsh Lesson

Sunday, May 10th at 11 am

Church Service followed by t  bach
This service will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Welsh Colony in Patagonia.

Saturday, April 18th 10am till 2pm

GRAND SPRING SALE

In recent years this has been the most successful fundraiser for the society and, with your help, this will be the best yet. Spread the word amongst your friends! **See Poster.**

The stalls will include:

Home made baking and preserves,
China, Collectibles;

Pre-owned Books, CD's, DVD's etc.,
Kitchenware, Linens and Jewelry,
"White Elephant", "Things Welsh",
Children's Wear and Toys,
Electrical and Electronics.

Volunteers are needed before the Sale on Wednesday, April 15th and Friday, April 17th to price items and to set up tables from 10.00 am till 3.00 pm
Lunch will be provided! Volunteers are also needed on the day of the sale to sell at the tables or assist in some other capacity and at the end of the day to help dismantle the stalls and put everything away.

Members of the Social Committee will be at the Hall to receive Sale items at the following times: Wed. April 8th from 11am till 2pm, Sun. April 12th at the Church Service, Mon. April 13th at the General Meeting, Wed. April 15th from 10 am till 3 pm, and Fri. April 17th from 10 am till 3 pm

Please let us know as early as possible if you have an item or a service you wish to offer worth \$25 or more since we plan to hold a Silent Auction.

Tables will be set up with items or services on which people can bid above a minimum level for each item. Contact Gillian Rogers (604 742-1378) or Gillian.Rogers@shaw.ca or any member of the Social Committee to work out how you can help and when you are free to volunteer.

The Saint Dwynwen Evening

On Saturday, January 24th, members and guests attended another successful St. Dwynwen event in the Red Dragon, appropriately decorated with hearts. David Llewelyn started the evening with an introduction to St. Dwynwen, the Patron Saint of Welsh lovers and also to Llanddwyn Island, the site of her church. He then showed a short video entitled *Cariadon* by Ron Davies, which dramatically presented the legend with views of the island as background. He concluded by reading out the *Prayer to St. Dwynwen* and then distributing St. Dwynwen's Day cards to everyone and explaining the Welsh words in the heart.



We were then entertained by Sharon McIntee Birrell, accompanied by Tae Maeda, who sang two songs, 'La Vie En Rose' (Edith Piaf) and 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square' (Vera Lynn) to great acclaim.



David had printed out Welsh songs with English translations too, so we chose to sing *Myfanwy*, *Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn* and *Ar Lan y Mor*, ably assisted by Ray Batten on the piano, who adjusted the pitch to accommodate our limited range!



We then paused for dessert, fruits plates and dessert squares. Eifion Williams had composed a very appropriate Quiz, consisting of 15 films with Love in their title to be matched to 15 leading actors. Copies were placed on each table, so we had the opportunity to work on that too. The films covered a period of 50 years so the quiz was quite a challenge. The winning score was 13.

After the interval, Sharon set the tone anew by singing the Irish classic 'Danny Boy'. She was followed by Beti Darvell Jones with her lively rendition of *Stately as a Galleon*, a very funny poem by Joyce Grenfell about dancing at her age when there were very few men available. This set a great mood in the gathering for the limerick competition. More than 30 entries were received, either with the first line "A lonely young man from Mold" and or with "There once was a young girl from Newport". One was allowed to adjust both the sex and the age of the subject. David read them out to the amusement of the audience.

David then read the fable of the tragic lovers Rhys and Meinir who lived in Nant Gwrtheyrn and complemented it by showing another short video by Ron Davies on Nant Gwrtheyrn's history. Finally Sharon brought the evening to a wonderful close by singing the beautiful song David had requested, 'The Rose'. Grateful thanks to all the participants who enthusiastically combined to make this event a fun time for all. Not the

least, the Social Committee for the decorations and the desserts.

(D.L.I.W.)

Sample limericks:

A lonely young woman from Mold
Never found a lad she could hold.
So she prayed for a spell
To the Devil in Hell
Who demanded her soul to be sold.

A lonely young lady from Mold
Sought love to keep out the cold
But the man of her dreams
Could not get up steam
So she settled on just getting old.

A lonely young girl from Mold
Decided to be very bold
She dated on line
Found her true valentine
And was happy thereafter, we're told.

A lonely young man from Mold
Fed up with feeling the cold
He herded some sheep
Their warmth made him sleep
He's happy now, so I'm told

There was a young woman in Newport
Whose skill on the harp had great import
She toured all of Wales
Played in cities and vales
But home was the famous Welsh seaport

There once was a girl in Newport
Whose goal was to find an escort.
She searched high and low
For a man with a glow
Who would be the one that she sought.

There once was a lady in New-port
Who swam in a bikini so short.
It got caught in the Usk
On a walrus' tusk,
For exposure, she's now in the Court.

St. David's Day Dinner and Concert

In an innovative departure from previous years, this year we celebrated St. David with a Dinner and a Concert featuring the traditional music of *Tramor*, a trio led by John Good, President of the Arizona Welsh Society. He also runs a Welsh language course on Americymru. John is well known in his native Wales and throughout the US as a multi-instrumentalist. He is a veteran of many Celtic festivals and concerts, including the North American Festival of Wales in Minneapolis where *Tramor* performed the Opening Concert. He was ably assisted by mandolin virtuoso Billy Parker and percussionist Kevin King.

A full house entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the evening as they were entertained royally by *Tramor* in the opening session with traditional Welsh folk music and Welsh pipe music. The 'hwyl' was apparent!



After feeding the soul, Grace was read in Welsh and English by Alcwyn Rogers and Angela Smith, and we moved to feed the body. Leek and potato soup, followed by another high quality Buffet, again provided by Jordan's International Food Designs. Some even returned for seconds!

We were then ready for the formal part of the evening, starting with our Secretary, Angela Smith, who presented a list of Welsh Societies from across the world which had sent greetings to us this year. Many were from Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Singapore.



Angela also read a message from Carwyn Jones, the First Minister of Wales, who highlighted that Wales was very much in the news in many parts of the world last year due to the 100th anniversary celebrations of the birth of Dylan Thomas. This year there will be celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Welsh settlers in Patagonia on board the *Mimosa*.

President David Llewelyn Williams, acting as Master of Ceremonies for the evening's program, introduced the Guests of Honour, Vancouver-Kingsway MP Don Davies and his wife Sheryl Palm, Speech Pathologist at Vancouver Children's Hospital. Mr. Davies spoke of his own Welsh heritage. John Gomer Davies, his great grandfather, had arrived in Brampton in the late 1800's and had felt so strongly about his Welsh heritage that he and his wife returned to Wales for the birth of all of their children; travel to Halifax followed by an arduous sea voyage. So his

grandfather was born in Wales and he felt very much at home in the Cambrian Hall. A large number of ethnic groups reside in his riding but he was happy that it also included our Hall. He proposed the Toast to Canada on behalf of both long time residents and immigrants. He concluded by presenting the President with a Certificate of Greetings on St. David's Day from the Parliament in Ottawa.



The Toast to St. David was presented by Antone Minard in Welsh and Nerys Haqq in English, in the form of Prayers to St. David.





The Toast to Wales was given by Eifion Williams who described some of the changes Wales has undergone over the past fifty years.



After a suitable pause to refresh, *Tramor* again returned to the stage for another performance of Welsh and other songs including some bluegrass influences. All were received with warm enthusiasm by the audience who appreciated the individual talents of the performers.



At the end of the evening, while thanking all the evening's performers and presenters, David Llewelyn Williams also expressed the Society's gratitude to the Social Committee, to Treasurer Gaynor Evans, and all who had worked to make the evening a success. As usual, a rousing round of applause was given to Tim Jordan of Jordan's International Food Designs for providing the delicious Dinner.



Billy, Angela, Mathew, Don, Kevin, John in the afterglow

Several of us then moved downstairs to socialize in the Red Dragon. A memorable evening, a tribute to St. David and enjoyed by all.

Celtic Fest Celebrations

Once again, the Vancouver Welsh Society continued its support of Celtic Fest at the Surrey Library on Saturday, March 12th. Mary Lewis, Antone Minard, Pat Morris and Mathew Parry presented a Welsh presence at our stall, replete also with Welsh cakes.



The Cambrian Circle Singers under the direction of Nerys Haqq serenaded the audience with Welsh songs.



Beti and Adrienne

St. Patrick's Parade Sunday March 13th

This year two Executive members were invited to ride in the horse drawn carriage. We came in Welsh costume amidst a sea of green!



Paul Livesley also flew the flag behind his three-wheeler, which also carried the words Rebecca's Daughters, the famous protest against toll booths in Wales. The following band of performers included Little Tiddy Cove Morris Ladies, and the Bowen Island Black Sheep.



**Don Murray
1939 -- 2014**



The Murrays - Liz; Julian, Shawn & Kaysen; Richard & Brianne and their extended family have adopted the tree in VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Vancouver, in Don's honour.

The tree is a *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia' located at the top of the great lawn. In the I Ching, the Young Tree represents: finding our way; developing roots; support and energy for growth. The signs, in turn, draw on the timeless wisdom of nature, reflecting the diversity of its spirit, the elegance and force of its cycles of change and its all-embracing harmony.

A fitting tribute to Don and his faith in the correctness of cyclical change and in the new generations coming up.

We would like to thank each of you for your message of love and support to us as we mourn our loss.



**WILLIAMS, John KEITH Burton
July 1st, 1934 – December 29th, 2014**



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Keith. Born in Skewen, South Wales, G.B., Keith graduated from Swansea University with a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Physics and supporting B.Sc. degrees in Pure and Applied Mathematics. The early part of his career he spent as a Research Physicist with electronic, aircraft and textile companies, followed by technical and managerial responsibilities in research and production of electrical cable manufacturing for Awco Ltd., a major British cable company.

In 1976 he and his family immigrated to Canada, settling in White Rock, B.C. In 1977 he joined B.C. Hydro in their High Voltage Distribution Engineering Division. In 1988 Keith transferred to Fundamental Research on High Voltage Transformer Design at B.C. Hydro Research Division in Surrey until his retirement in 1997. During his retirement Keith ran a Tutorial Service for students in mathematics, physics and chemistry in White Rock and surrounding areas. Keith was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who loved Welsh rugby and soccer, travelling with his wife and family, old movies and socializing each morning with his coffee club buddies. He loved and inspired us

all and will be tremendously missed by his loving wife Pamela, sons Garrick (Daisy), Rhys (Jennifer), Alex (Renee), Davyd (Michelle), daughter Pamela (Dennis) and many family and friends. This verse from “*A Psalm of Life*” was written by Longfellow, with Keith in mind:

*Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.*

Jessie Morgan Dodds

After a brief illness, Jessie died on February 8, 2015 in Burnaby. Before Jessie began school in the early 1930's, Jessie was introduced to the Vancouver Welsh Society and the Cambrian Hall by her maternal grandmother, Jessie Mary Ann (Jones) Beecroft who had come to Vancouver in 1924 from Brandon, Manitoba but whose parents were from Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil. Her paternal grand-parents, Arthur and Ella Morgan (Arthur from Llanwrda, Carmarthen) had also become Society members when they arrived in Vancouver in 1907. So with grandmother (Jones) Beecroft, grandparents Morgan and aunt Phyllis encouraging her, Jessie's early years established an awareness and a pride in her Welsh heritage and culture. Jessie fondly remembered early years in the Cambrian Hall, the children's choir and family picnics. And she used to proudly tell cousin Lynn that she was ½ Welsh!



Jessie with Aunt Phyllis in 2010

In later years when Jessie moved back to Burnaby from the Fraser Valley, Jessie loved coming to Society events with Aunt Phyllis and Ken Owens and cousin Lynn (and Wilf), and happily joined Phyllis and Lynn with Vikki, her daughter, making family recipes including Welsh Cakes.

Jessie was born in Vancouver in 1927 and lived all of her life in the lower mainland. She enjoyed a lengthy career in the cosmetics industry and after retirement continued working well into her late 70's during the Christmas season. Jessie was a devoted volunteer at the Burnaby Hospital Cancer Clinic, West Burnaby United Church Community Lunch and South Burnaby United Church Thrift Store. And she was legendary selling jewelry at the Welsh Society Spring Sale each spring. Like her father, Jessie was a voracious reader. She belonged to a number of book clubs including the Cambrian Hall book club where she enjoyed the friendship of many in the Welsh Society. She loved a great story and delighted in the beauty of prose and the knowledge that she acquired from her readings. She also loved to travel but her greatest love was her family and her friends. Jessie is survived by her devoted daughter Vikki and her husband Corrie Liket, grandchildren Dorette (Scot) Jackson and Jason (Kelly) Bedford, great grandchildren Ethan, Erica, Liam and Leyton, her dear brother Stan Morgan (Darlene), cousins Shirley Mason and Lynn Owens-Whalen, nieces Lisa Rossiter and Kathy Litke and many dear friends.

Jessie will be remembered as a classy, gracious, warm and friendly person who made everyone feel special. Her love was unconditional and her friendships were authentic and deep. She was

intensely proud of all her family and also of her Welsh heritage. She is greatly missed by all those who knew her.

**Lucy Lyon Sorensen April 09, 1936-
August 29, 2014**

Lucy Lyon Sorensen was born Lucy Lyon Playfair in Tokyo, Japan on April 09, 1936, the only child of Hugh and Maida Playfair. Her mother was working in the American Embassy in Tokyo and both parents were half Japanese. With war threatening, Lucy was sent to her Aunt Lola, who lived near Los Angeles, California. Lucy was eventually reunited with her parents and they settled in Vancouver B.C., in the Dunbar area, where she attended Lord Byng High School.

Two activities dominated her time in her early years, dogs and music. Her main company in her early years were her dogs, whom she would enter into dog shows. When her piano lessons actually started is unclear, but a great deal of time was spent practicing once she did. She taught piano in her early years and was still teaching when I met her thirty or so years ago. She married Ken Sorensen in 1958 or 1959, moving to Steveston in 1960, where she lived out her life in the same house on Broadway Street. They were to have three children, Eric in 1960, Krista in 1962 and Karen in 1968. She has four grandchildren, Jared, Lisa, Katelyn and Madison.

Lucy became involved with the Richmond Singers in the early eighties and ultimately joined the Cambrian Circle Singers as the accompanist in early 1985. Her first concert was a live concert on CKVU on St. David's Day, March 1 1985. She was to continue to play for 29 years more with her last concert being at the Celtic Fest in the Surrey Museum on March 15, 2014. She

also on numerous occasions lent her fingers to the keyboards down at the Cambrian Hall.

Her memorial service was held in Steveston United Church on Sept. 13, 2014. It was attended to capacity and filled with music. It ended with the Cambrian Circle Singers singing "Ar Hyd y Nos" (All Through the Night) in both Welsh and English.

**We'll keep a Welcome
in the Cambrian!**

This year's exciting Six Nations Rugby contest and its nail biting concluding games led to a sea of red at the games broadcast at the Pint pub downtown. This prompted Neville Thomas to advertise our existence to anyone supporting Wales at these events and encouraging them to attend both our St. David's Day event and a Welcome Pub Night on Friday March 20th, which he organized.

We had already encountered two new arrivals but more attended on St. David's Day and even more for the Welcome, at which many society members were present. Ray Batten played the piano to encourage the singing; Paul hit some notes on the accordion and there was a lot of social interaction between the generations. Neville not only made sure all guests were correctly signed in, but also announced their presence on arrival. Our thanks to Wynford Owen and Kathy Thomas who ran the bar.

We are especially grateful to Neville for his enthusiastic initiative and we hope their experiences with these two events will lead to a continuing interaction. One of recent arrivals in late 2014, Gwyn Rhys Jones produced a video of our St. David's Day event. It can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCff9EUft3AC5hK82uKMVuBg>



www.WelshSociety.com

Grand Spring Sale

The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue

Saturday, April 18th 10:00am till 2pm

- ❖ Home made baking and preserves
- ❖ Collectibles and China
- ❖ Pre-owned books
- ❖ CD's, DVD's Etc.
- ❖ Linens and Jewellery
- ❖ Children's wear and toys
- ❖ White Elephant
- ❖ Things Welsh
- ❖ Kitchenware
- ❖ Electrical and Electronics

❖ A Silent Auction will be held on the stage.

❖ Refreshments will be served in our Tea Room.

mail@WelshSociety.com

Phone: 604 876-2815