

CYMDEITHAS GYMREIG CALGARY

CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY

DECEMBER - 2009

NEWSLETTER ISSUE

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**President: Wayne Davies 289-3478; Vice-P: Alun Lewis 710-3032; Secretary:** *This position is temporarily vacant so a willing volunteer is required. No salary or benefits are offered - other than good company;* **Cultural Sec: David Matthews 695-6928** aided by *Viv Ellis, Kathleen Johnson, Brian Lewis and Anne-Marie Nawton;* **Treasurer: Norman Pierce 278-9371; Membership Coord: Elaine Westlake 256-4136; Phone group: Jean Kuhn 567-0507** aided by *Kathleen Johnson, Margaret Kuyt and Anne-Marie Nawton.* **Area Code 403 applies to ALL Calgary phone numbers!**

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### RECENT NEWS and ACTIVITIES

**SOCIETY SECRETARY** We appreciate the work *Kate Coolidge* has done for us over a number of years and we regret she feels unable to continue in that capacity. The name of a new incumbent will be announced shortly!

**FESTIVAL OF WALES** *Cledwyn* and *Julie Haydn-Jones* attended this late summer Pittsburgh event. A write-up of their experience accompanies this newsletter - refer to the enclosed 'Addendum'! [Diolch Cledwyn am yr ysgrif!]

**NOSON LAWEN** On October 10<sup>th</sup> thirty-two members enjoyed a carefree and entertaining evening at the Irish Cultural Centre. All participants are thanked for their contributions (artistic and otherwise) and the hard work of *David and Mona Matthews* along with *Brian and Della Lewis* and *Kathleen Johnson* are sincerely appreciated! At the event, artist member Barry Marks donated another of his silk-screen paintings to the Society. On this occasion it was a hand-pulled silkscreen print entitled 'Christmas Wagon' - the 19<sup>th</sup> in a run of 101 by Barry and based on a drawing of a wagon seen in *Bragg Creek* during the 1970s. It is a beautiful work of art and the Society is again privileged to receive such a generous gift! The print will be raffled at a future well attended Society function!

**CONTINUING EXPOSURE EFFORT** With the objective of giving greater exposure to our Calgary presence, effort continues for the inclusion of a *WELSH GROVE* feature at the newly renovated *Calgary Zoo* gardens. Discussions are ongoing for a suitable garden area to be chosen, suitable plants and flowers to be selected - along with the location of adjacent bench seating fitted with a suitable plaque/s identifying the Calgary Welsh Society initiative!

Regarding the inclusion of a seasonal Welsh greeting within the Lions International 'Christmas Festival of Lights' display at Confederation Park - the very earliest it can now be incorporated will be for the 2010 Christmas season!

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**ROSEBUD DINNER THEATRE** Arrangements for a lunch and matinee performance of *Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales'* are now complete for *Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>*! This event is in place of the usual Christmas Dinner held this time of year! PICK-UP arrangements are as follows: For those preferring a **SOUTH** pick-up point, **REPORT at 8.00 AM** at the *Anderson Road LRT Station* car park for a **PROMPT 8.15 AM** departure. For those with a **NORTH** preference, **REPORT at 8.30 AM** in the NORTH-EAST CORNER of the *Deerfoot Mall* parking lot for a **PROMPT 8.45 AM** departure! (This car park access is off 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue near its junction with 11<sup>th</sup> St. NE.) **Should there be any problem regarding your commitment ---- PLEASE CONTACT David Matthews AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** *[The Rosebud Theatre group have publicly acknowledged the Society's interest and support of their production!]*

**DWYNWEN'S DAY 2010** Our first celebration of the *Welsh St Valentine's Day* is scheduled for the upper hall of the *IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE*, 6452-35<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW (Bowness community) for **SATURDAY, JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a family occasion and, maybe, an opportunity to also continue with the *New Year* celebrations! **Meet at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start!** Admission will be **\$15.00** per family and **\$10.00** per single adult! **Final Arrangements** will be advised by the Phone-Committee nearer the date! **'Fun & Games'** for all ages, **DJ** in attendance - and a cash bar!

**DYDD GWYL DEWI 2010** This *St David's Day Celebration* will be held at FORT CALGARY on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>th</sup>** where the *Officers Mess* has again been chosen as our venue. Take note of this key date and make a special point of *ATTENDING THE PRIME CULTURAL EVENT OF OUR CALENDAR!* The usual appropriate formalities will be respected and suitable entertainment provided for your after-dinner pleasure! A cash-bar will be available throughout the evening. Ample adjacent free parking exists at the location! As usual, **Cocktails from 6.30 pm with Dinner at 7.00 pm prompt!** Tickets are **\$40.00** each (for paid-up members) and **\$45.00** each for non members! PAY AT THE DOOR, by cash or cheque and - **ALL TELEPHONED RESPONSE PROMISES ARE EXPECTED TO BE HONOURED!**

**MAY 2010 SONG RECITAL** A concert is in the planning stage for a musical evening at *CHRISTCHURCH, the Anglican Church* located at 3602 - 8<sup>th</sup> Street SW (overlooking *Elbow Drive*)! A selection of *Welsh music* will be featured and presented (mostly) by local Welsh artists. Further details of this event will be included in the next newsletter!

**WHAT DOES REALLY INTEREST MEMBERS** On the Edmonton 'Ty Dyn Y Ser' coach trip back in May, *Social Secretary* David Matthews prepared a couple of questionnaires with a view to obtaining ideas and opinions about the programme of activities our Society should promote. The obvious objectives were to gain insight on how our present membership could be better served and how new ones could perhaps be attracted! Thirty-five (35) adults were on the coach trip (32% of our adult membership) - at least twenty-three (23) of whom contributed their opinions. The apparent smaller participation level still represented a credible sample size for obtaining meaningful information - bearing in mind some of the responses could have been collective ones, the views of passengers seated together at that time! The main questionnaire comprised twenty questions - to which seven responses reflected the greatest interests as being, respectively, listening to individual singers, choirs and instrumental music, listening to jokes, attending Society BBQs and picnics, genealogy and travelling with fellow members to functions and visits to kindred Societies! These preferences were closely followed by a strong interest in two other items namely - listening to poetry and/or readings and watching plays and sketches! At almost the same level of interest, three more activities were mentioned - the *Seniors' Tea Party* (many on the trip being of that age group), listening to talks and/or lectures and competing in short quizzes! Further to this 'round dozen' of favoured responses, interest was also expressed in 'performance' activities - singing, playing an instrument, giving talks/lectures, telling jokes, giving poetry and such readings, play/sketch participation, walks in small groups - and, naturally, watching rugby matches! Six further spheres of possible interest were explored without too much response - comprising theatre visits, darts competitions, choral singing participation, car-rallies and treasure hunts - and learning more about early Welsh history! On the latter, it should be noted, because your Ed's late-in-life research diversions have given him so much more insight into our origins than he can recall from school-day teachings, readers can be assured future newsletters will continue to explore the subject - for all of us to enjoy .... whether we like it or not!  
*[It is hoped our Social Secretary's curiosity and initiative will help re-focus our attentions to better serve present and future Society members. We are indebted to David for making this particular effort to inform us about ourselves!]*

**WORLD RUGBY** A host of European club and international games began in September of this year! In the *Southern Hemisphere*, the *Tri-Nations* competition was dominated by *South Africa* who lost only one of their six matches - and surprisingly, one of the 3 played against lowly *Australia* who ended up with the 'down-under' version of the 'wooden spoon'! *New Zealand* broke even with 3 wins and 3 losses - all their losses being against the *Springboks*! In the *United Kingdom* and *Europe*, the *Magners*, *Guinness*, *Heineken* and *EDF (Anglo-Welsh)* competitions have been in full swing for some time with varying degrees of success for Welsh clubs who also had to cope with a series of international matches at *Millennium Stadium, Cardiff*! The first of these, against *New Zealand* on *November 7<sup>th</sup>*, was a disappointing (19-12) loss with little to choose between the two teams. On the very same day *England* lost (18-12) to *Australia* at *Twickenham*. Then, against *Samoa* on *Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>*, *Wales* secured a (17-13) win by the skin of their teeth although a stronger side! The following day, *Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>*, *England* just managed to beat *Argentina* (16-9) and, on the same weekend, *Ireland* drew with *Australia*, (20-20). The *Wales/Argentina* contest on *November 21<sup>st</sup>* ended with a splendid win for the home side (33-16) where *Stephen Jones (Llanelli 'Scarlets')* and *Shane Williams (Neath & Swansea 'Ospreys')* had outstanding games! The *Australia* game on *Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>* concluded *Wales'* autumn fixtures - but with a disappointing and totally unexpected (33-12) loss. On the same day, *Ireland* narrowly defeated *South Africa* (15-10). *Wales'* world rugby ranking now stands no better than 5<sup>th</sup> - behind *South Africa*, *New Zealand*, *Australia* and *Ireland*! *Wales'* next challenge to improve upon this position will be the 2010 European 'Six-Nations' involvement which commences at *Twickenham* on *February 6<sup>th</sup>* next!

[Many rugby fans may have learnt, earlier in the year, of the passing of two famous Welsh rugby internationals who were stalwarts of the game before, during and after the WW2 years! Scrum-half **Haydn Tanner** of Penclawdd and centre **Bleddyn Williams** of Cardiff - both outstanding players in their positions - as well as British Lions!]

**OTHER WELSH MONARCHIES** Having heard so much about the *Tudors* and the *Kings of Gwynedd* (all *North Walians* by origin) it was felt that Society members from the southern extremities of the parish might begin to feel a little neglected upon realising the impact their northern compatriots had in Britain's early history! To remedy any such fears, 'southerners' may be comforted by learning a little more about their tribal origins and of the lesser known monarchies of *Gwent* and *Morgannwg*! Southern 'grandeur' did exist even during the years of *Roman* occupation when *native Britons* managed to retain some autonomy! However, very little was ever recorded during those early years that could be construed as firm historical fact - although it could have been possible that the *Silures*, *Ordovices* and *Demetae* (Roman names for the tribal regions within the geographical area now known as Wales) were still ruled by their own chieftains despite Roman domination! Toward the end of that period, an influx of '*Irish*' from the west and '*British*' from the east tested the tribal boundaries - while new ones also emerged to subsequently combine in the formation of five Welsh kingdoms - namely, *Gwent* and *Glamorgan*, *Deheubarth* (the *Rhys ap Gruffydd* line), the main *Powys* lineage in the south-centre with *Powys* again (the line of *Owain Glyndwr*) with *Gwynedd* (the *Llywelyn ap Gruffydd* lineage) in the more northerly regions!

The 'ruler-ship' of south-east Wales became more complicated with many land sub-divisions appearing due to 'partible' succession! Two main kingdoms first emerged, *Gwent* and *Glywysing* (both from the *Silures* origin), where petty local chieftains tended to respond to the strongest rulers from either the *Gwent* or *Glywysing* areas! It was not until the 10<sup>th</sup> century that the two kingdoms effectively merged under the *Morgannwg* banner! Lands, however, were still generally sub-divided (partibly) among sons and brothers resulting in the formation of numerous sub-kingdoms! A succession of *Gwent* rulers held sway during the 4<sup>th</sup> century (420 to 480 AD) with a ruler named *Glywys* founding the kingdom of *Glywysing* in the 490s! *Gwent* and *Glywysing* rulers then dominated the scene until the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> century when *Morgan* (brother of *Cadwgan ap Owain*, ruler of *West Glywysing*) united *Gwent*, *Gower* and *Glywysing* to create the single *Morgannwg* kingdom - to be later called *Glamorgan*! Under *Morgan the Old*, the former kingdoms of *Gwent* and *Glywysing* retained their individual identities to some degree - while *Morgannwg* continued to fragment despite a tendency towards unity in combating successive *Danish* and *Saxon* invasions! Between 1055 and 1063 both *Morgannwg* and *Gwent* were taken over by *Gruffydd ap Llywelyn* of *Gwynedd* - and in 1091 both again fell to the *Normans* under the control of *Robert Fitzhamon*! The descendants of *Caradog ap Gruffydd* (last ruler of *Gwent*) became *lords* of *Caerleon* until deprived of their land in 1270. The descendants of *Iestyn ap Gwrgan* (*Glamorgan's* last ruler) became *lords* of *Afan* until deprived of their lands 12 years later!

The names of these *South Wales* rulers, from c420 until 1091 AD, made interesting reading and shed some light, perhaps, on the evolution of personal names in that part of the world where touches of Nordic, Latin and other influences could have been evident at the outset! Starting with a *Gwent* ruler named *Erb* (*Surely not short for 'Herbert' in those early days, eh?*) the succession that followed was - *Nynniaw*, *Tiethfallt*, *Glywys*, *Honorius* (or *Ynyr*), *Gwynllyw*, *Iddon*, *Cadoc* (or *Cadog*), *Tewdrig* (or *Theodosis*), *Meurig* or *Mouric*, *Cynfeddw*, *Arthwyr ap Meurig*, *Morgan Mwynfawr* (*Morgan the Generous* c655), *Ithael*, *Ffernfael ap Ithael*, *Rhys ab Ithael*, *Arthwyr ap Ffernfael*, *Arthfael ap Rhys*, *Ithael ab Arthwyr*, *Meurig ab Arthfael*, *Rhys ab Arthfael*, *Brochwael ab Meurig*, *Ffernwael ab Meurig*, *Hywel ap Rhys*, *Owain ap Hywel*, *Arthfael ap Hywel*, *Cadell ap Arthfael* (c930), *Gruffydd ap Owain*, *Cadwgan ap Owain*, *Morgan Hen* (*Old Morgan*) *ab Owain*, *Nowy ap Gwriad*, *Owain ap Morgan*, *Arthfael ap Nowy*, *Rhys ab Owain*, *Iestyn ab Owain*, *Hywel ab Owain*, *Rhodri ap Elisedd*, *Gruffydd ap Elisedd*, *Edwyn ap Gwriad*, *Rhydderch ab Iestyn*, *Gruffydd ap Rhydderch*, *Meurig ap Hywel* (c1055), *Cadwgan ap Meurig*, *Caradog ap Gruffydd* and lastly, *Iestyn ap Gwrgan* who was deposed in c1091 and, supposedly, later died in a priory some three years later! [The '*ab*' and '*ap*' titles in many of these names simply indicated, 'the second named was father of the first!]

**WELSH WORLD EDIFICE** Thomas Telford's towering *Pontcysyllte Aqueduct* spanning the River Dee valley was granted *World Heritage Status* last July! Located on the *Langollen Canal* section of a navigable canal network connecting the rivers *Severn*, *Dee* and *Mersey*, the award gave global recognition to a unique canal era civil engineering masterpiece, along with its surrounding countryside, and elevating it to prominence in the company of

such well known wonders as Australia's *Great Barrier Reef* and India's *Taj Mahal*. The aqueduct took ten years to build (from July 1795) and consisted of 18 tapered stone piers (locally quarried) each 116 feet high with 19 arches each 45 feet in span - and completed at the low cost of a mere \$90,000 when compared with the cool \$5million spent on the structural overhaul (started in 2002) that preceded the heritage award! Two centuries following the days when horse-drawn barges shipped cargoes of coal and brick along the canal - visiting hordes of tourists and boaters now stand in awe of the landmark! It is forecast the 10,000 pleasure boats and over 25,000 pedestrians who now annually traverse the aqueduct, those numbers will easily be surpassed in the future by virtue of newly acquired global recognition! Twenty-seven UK sites are already on the *World Heritage List* but only two other Welsh sites are in this illustrious company - one in Gwynedd, in the north, *King Edward I's Castles and Town Walls* and the other in the south, the *Blaenavon Industrial Landscape*! Appropriately, the name '*Pontcysyllte*' simply means '*the bridge that connects*' - within the relatively short canal era it served! (Many thanks to *Philip* and *Barbara Morris* who saw fit to bring this memorable event to our notice - following last summer's UK family visit!)

**ARE YOU CURIOUS** *The National Library of Wales* has good news for family historians, social historians and the inquisitive! Over 190,000 Welsh wills (some 800,000 pages of information) have been digitised and made available on the *Library's* website and on its online catalogue - all free to view! Wills which were proved in the Welsh ecclesiastical courts before the introduction of Civil Probate in 1858 have long been deposited at the *Library*. An online index and an opportunity to view digital images of these wills within the *Library* building has been available for some time and a new site was also made available October last! Of interest, in this collection is the will of *Twm Siôn Cati*, a renowned Welsh highwayman - the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of whose death is recognised this year! As well as being an excellent source of information the *National Library's* 'online wills' feature offers the ability to view 193,000 of them free of charge! Contact: <http://cat.llgc.org.uk/cgi-bin/gw/chameleon?skin=profef&lng=en>

*Twm Siôn Cati*, was the nickname given to one *Thomas Jones* of *Ffynon Llidiad* near *Tregaron, Carm.*, son of *Catherine Jones* and a *Sir John Wynne*! Following a somewhat boisterous life-style in his younger days, *Twm* gained notoriety as a Welsh *Robin Hood*, a highwayman and local practical joker, robber and cattle thief - and to his credit, he usually robbed the rich and gave to the poor - his exploits becoming legendary throughout Wales! In later life he married the wealthy widow of a *Carmarthenshire High Sheriff* in *Ystradffyn* - becoming a landowner of influence and even receiving a *Royal Pardon* in 1560! It is said, if a visit were made to the *Rhandirwyn* and *Cil-y-Cwm* areas a cloaked horseman may be seen galloping by - perhaps *Twm's* ghost or again, a local farmer out for a ride! Whichever way, a visit to one of the most beautiful, wild and romantic areas in Wales would be worthwhile - and if one ventured to the village of *Dinas* - a trail along the bank of the *Tywi* could lead to *Twm Siôn Cati's* cave where he hid to avoid capture! [*Thank you*, *Ann Williams*, for bringing this *National Library* news item to our attention!]

**2010 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS** A **RENEWAL FORM** complete with **STAMPED & ADDRESSED RETURN ENVELOPE** is enclosed with this newsletter mailing. Please take advantage of the occasion to submit your renewal **PROMPTLY!**

#### **Addendum**

#### **A review of the North American Festival of Wales, 2009 - by *Cledwyn Haydn-Jones***

*Rhagorol (Excellent)! Bendigedig (Terrific)! .....* these words of approbation come to mind as I evaluate the quality of the 78<sup>th</sup> *North American Festival* and *Gymanfa Ganu* held in *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*, September 3 - 6, 2009.

This exemplary festival was hosted and organized well by the *St. David's Society of Pittsburgh*, the largest Welsh Society in North America. From the *Opening Ceremony* to the *Final Concert*, Julie and I spent a most enjoyable time singing, laughing and indulging in a bit of '*hiraeth*' (nostalgia) over a '*cuppa*' and *Welsh Cakes*!

The *Opening Ceremony* was held at *Point Park*, the verdant promontory separating the *Allegheny* and *Monongahela* rivers which merge as the mighty *Ohio*. We were delighted with the Ceremony because it was led by a school superintendent (my former vocation), *John Jones Reinhardt*, who introduced us to his school district's *Bangor Slater Marching High School Band*. The band played Welsh airs and marches beautifully! I was born in *Bangor (Gwynedd)* and both my grandfathers were slate-quarry workers and, for a few years, coal miners in *Ferndale*.

Highlights of the *Festival* included informal '*nos llawen*' at two Hilton Hotel lounges, the one for hymn singing and the other '*cerdd gwerin*' (folk music); excellent concerts which featured iconic singers such as *Dafydd Iwan* and the band '*Ar Log*' (*For Hire*). Major events included the *Banquet* with sonorous tenor *Gwyndaf Jones* of *Toronto* and *Llanfair ... ogogoch* (also known as *Llanfair PG*) and the *North American Welsh Choir* led by *Mari Morgan*. The *Eisteddfod* was a disappointment due to the low number of contestants but the *Gymanfa* led by the brilliant young musician, *Eilir Owen-Griffiths*, was a resounding success. *Lord Roger Roberts* of *Llandudno*, a former colleague of my father, was the compelling '*pregethwr*' (*preacher*) at the *Oedfa'r Sul* (*Sunday Service*).

Julie and I savoured the treats at the *Welsh Tea Room and Market* - including '*bara brith*' (*mottled bread*) and a myriad of displays and literary and commercial booths. We attended several fine seminars taught by inspiring and competent mentors who attended *Cwrs Madog* in *Camrose (Alberta)* last spring.

I am most grateful to the *Calgary Welsh Society* and the selection committee for defraying the costs of my attendance at the *Festival*. Julie and I recommend that many of us attend *NAFOW* next September in *Portland, Oregon*.

*NAFOW 2009?* - Atgofion melus (Sweet memories)!

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