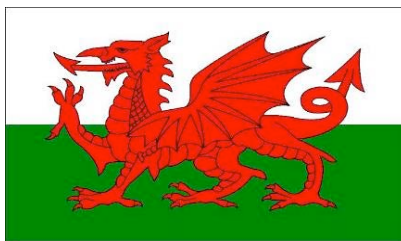


# CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY, CYMDEITHAS GYMREIG CALGARY: NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2010.

## Executive Members.

**President:** Elaine Westlake,  
256-4136 (welsh\_gal13@yahoo.ca).

**Vice-President/Social Convenor:**  
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**Secretary:** Kathleen Johnson,  
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**Treasurer:** Norman Pierce,  
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**Membership Secretary:** Jean Kuhn,  
567-0507 (jeankuhn@shaw.ca).

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**President's Message.** Greetings from your new Executive! Elaine (President), David (Vice-President and Social Secretary), Norman (Treasurer), Kathleen (Secretary) and Jean (Membership Secretary and Phone Coordinator) feel honoured to have been elected to serve as your board. We are a hard-working group who share a deep love for our society and Welsh culture. Over the next year, we hope to encourage each one of you to participate in our various meetings and concerts and we look forward to joining with you for fun, inspiration and enjoyment.

We are grateful to three special people who have worked tirelessly on behalf of our society for the past few years. Many thanks to Wayne Davies, who recently stepped down from the President position, to Alun Lewis, who served as Vice-President after a number of years as President and to Roly Thomas who was our Newsletter Editor for nine years. Diolch yn fawr iawn Wayne, Alun and Roly!

On May 16, a large audience, including CWS members, as well as friends and local church patrons - were present at the *Spring is Singing* concert at Christ Church in Elbow Park. This society-sponsored concert featured the splendid voices of Laura Styler-Jones, Edith Pritchard, Derek Johnson and Jason Erhardt. Please mark your calendars for two more exciting choral evenings featuring Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and Cor Godre'r Aran

Congratulations to four of our members who were selected to receive funding as Calgary Welsh Society ambassadors at Welsh meetings this summer, namely: Tracy Burr (for Cwrs Cymraeg in Cardiff) and Alun Lewis, Brian Lewis and David Matthews (for the Portland, Oregon, North American Festival of Wales). We look forward to hearing about your experiences in future newsletters! This is the second year we have been able to sponsor members to these two events courtesy of our casino funds. There is still time for CWS members to register for the three day Festival of Wales in Portland, a feast of concerts and information sessions ([www.wngga.org](http://www.wngga.org)).

If you have questions, would like information, or wish to make suggestions to help the society, please contact any member of our Calgary Welsh Society Executive.

Dymuniadau Gorau iawn (Very Best Wishes),

Elaine Westlake.

## THESE SUMMER EVENTS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

**1. Welsh Family Picnic. Saturday, July 10, 2:30 p.m. at Lake Bonavista** (entry off the shopping centre). This year we are adding games of fun to the event! There is no admission fee, and the Society will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and light refreshments. But please bring one salad, appetizer or dessert. **Note** that the rules of the lakeside location specify that alcohol or glasses are NOT allowed. So pretend it is an 'old' Welsh Sunday outing! Look forward to a call from your Calgary Welsh Society Phone Committee.

**2. Concert by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir. Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7.30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church (1009, 15th Ave SW, Calgary).** Don't miss this talented and well-known choir that has a great reputation in the Toronto-Southern Ontario area. Founded fifteen years ago they are on a Western Canada tour. Mark your calendars for this special musical opportunity and bring your friends along. More information on this choir can be found at the following website: [info@twmvc.com](mailto:info@twmvc.com). Remember that parking is limited around the Grace church. Free Admission.

**3. Ponoka Gymanfa Ganu. 2.30. p.m. on Sunday, August 8, 2010 at Ponoka United Church, 5020, 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.** The CWS will not be arranging a bus trip to this annual event. However, we encourage our members to continue to support our Ponoka friends, especially as the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir will be performing at this event.

**4. Cor Godre'r Aran. Sunday, September 12, 2010, 7:30 p.m at Grace Presbyterian Church (1009, 15th Ave SW, Calgary, AB).** As was described in the last newsletter this group is one of Wales' top male voice choirs. Do plan to attend! Mark your calendars for yet another special musical opportunity! Again this is free admission.

**5. 3rd Annual Seniors Tea. Sunday, September 26, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. at Dove's Nest Restaurant (Glenmore Landing, 106A, 1600, 90th Ave. SW, Calgary, AB).** This is a free function for seniors.

**6. Gelli Gymreig (Welsh Grove and Bench) at the Calgary Zoo** A grant from casino funds is being used to create a small Welsh niche in the renovations in the Zoo's Dorothy Harvie Gardens, complete with bench and plants to remind us of Wales. We hope a dedication ceremony can be held sometime in September.

The CWS application for an entry in the Stampede Parade was turned down in mid-June after initially being accepted.

**NOTE.** Further information about CWS activities can be obtained from the website ([calgarywelshsociety.ca](http://calgarywelshsociety.ca)) designed by Quinten Beasley. Quinten and Lynne must be congratulated on the birth and recent christening of Hayden, their second child.

**Opportunity for a Journey to Celtic Lands.** St David's Church in Brentwood is marking its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by organizing a 15 day trip to the major historic Christian sites in Scotland, Ireland and Wales, between 26<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2011. Hosted by Wayne and Marlene Holst, and costing just under \$5,000, the climax of the trip will be a visit to St. David's cathedral in Wales, where the current bishop is Dr Wynne Evans. There may still be vacancies on the tour. Further details, including a brochure, can be obtained from Rostad Tours at 403-238-4090 (or at [tours@rostad.com](mailto:tours@rostad.com)).

**Katherine Jenkins now has Canadian Connections.** The singing superstar from Neath will be 30 years old at the end of this month. She changed record labels last year after the phenomenal success of her first records, with 6 out of her first 7 discs achieving No 1 position in the U.K classical charts and selling over 4 million copies. Her first record with Warner

Music is called BELIEVE and was produced in Los Angeles last October with the guidance of world-renowned Canadian composer-arranger David Foster. A second and more curious Canadian connection is the fact that she sang the Canadian National anthem before the Canada v Argentine soccer game in Buenos Aires on May 24th. When she sings the Welsh anthem in rugby internationals in Cardiff she is usually informally dressed in a Welsh rugby shirt, although she always wears those impossibly high heels. However, in Argentina she was dressed in a black, curve-hugging dress designed by Victoria Beckham. Did KJ choose the colour because she anticipated the result of the game? The score was 5-0 to Argentina, perhaps a reflection of Canada's F.I.F.A. position of 63. Wales languishes at position 77 in the world rankings.

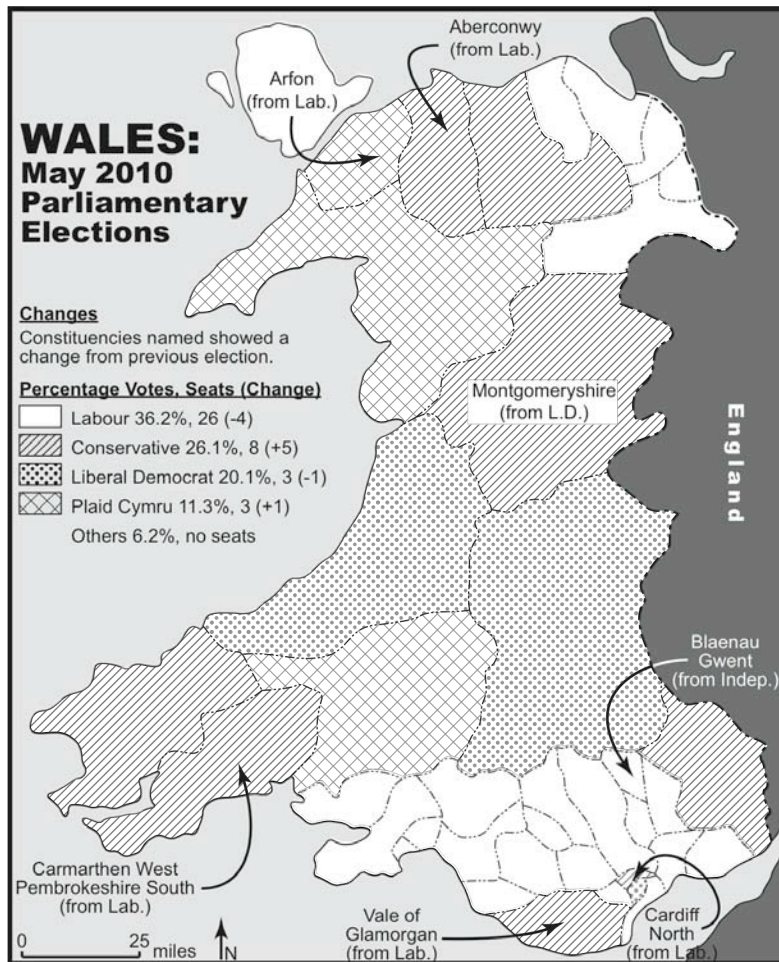
**Welsh Sports News.** The Welsh rugby team had a disappointing Six Nations tournament, with only two wins. Too many silly yellow cards and careless play cost them dearly in the four games they lost. The same pattern of lack of control emerged against South Africa on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Cardiff. Wales were 16-3 ahead early in the game but ended up 34-31 losers. However, the Swansea-Neath Ospreys beat the former champions, Leinster, in Dublin, the play-off final of the Magners (Wales-Ireland-Scotland) League. Also, Cardiff Blues beat Toulon, in Toulon, in the secondary European Rugby competition. Could these results be signs of hope, or just the usual misplaced Welsh optimism for the June tour of New Zealand? The results of the first test in New Zealand on June 20<sup>th</sup>, a 42-9 loss in Dunedin, suggest the latter. However, Wales did take the play to New Zealand for much of the game, even getting an early lead. But we were vanquished again by a series of mistakes that New Zealand capitalised on, as well as the brilliance of Dan Carter, the Kiwi's outside half. Wales put up a 'spirited' performance in the second test but lost 29-10. Wales have not beaten New Zealand for over fifty seven years!!!

Cardiff City supporters suffered another heartache in Wembley, losing 3-2 to Blackpool in the play-off for entry to the Premier League. Soccer supporters were also disappointed that Owen Hargreaves did not recover in time from his knee operations to be considered for the English team in the World Cup in South Africa. Owen brought up in Calgary and could have qualified for Wales because of his Welsh mother and was coached at youth level by our own Keith Coulson. Not since 1958 has the Welsh soccer team qualified for the World Cup when they were unfortunate to meet the eventual winners, Brazil, in the quarter finals. We lost 1-0, to Pele's goal, the first that the seventeen-year old future superstar scored for Brazil. What would have happened had our world-class player, John Charles, been fit for that game?

**A joke from CWS member (K.C.) BEFORE the World Cup.** The Seven Dwarfs were excited about the forthcoming World Cup of Soccer. They went off happily to work in the mine. Snow White busied herself cleaning the house and then making their lunch. At noon she took the lunches to the mine but was horrified to find there had been a mine cave-in. She rushed to the main shaft, calling: "Seven Dwarfs, Seven Dwarfs, are you safe?" There was only silence. But finally she heard a faint, faint voice singing: "England will win the World Cup." Snow White exclaimed: "Thank goodness, at least Dopey is alive".....*England did stagger through the qualifying rounds but lost (again in competition) to Germany on June 27<sup>th</sup>.*

**Welsh-born Woman becomes Australian Prime Minister.** Julia Gillard was elected by the ruling Labour Party on June 24<sup>th</sup> to be its new leader. She was born in Barry but left for Australia with her family when she was six. Kevin Rudd's declining popularity led his party to replace him as Prime Minister. She is the **first** female – a red-headed one at that! - to hold the post. She is the **second Welsh person** to lead her adopted country. The first was William ('Billy') Hughes:1915 to 1923. Born in London to Welsh parents, he spent much of his youth in his mother's village in Llansantffraid (Montgom.).

## THE CHANGING POLITICAL MAP OF WALES



One of the most exciting U.K. elections for years took place in May. In Britain as a whole the Conservatives, after three successive defeats, won 307 seats (+97 from 2005), but not enough to win a majority. Labour came second with 258 seats (-91), and despite early predictions of a breakthrough the Liberal Democrats won only 57 seats (-5). The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats established the first coalition government since World War II. (Incidentally, the new Welsh Secretary is Cheryl Gillan from Chesham and Amersham, in the heart of the Chilterns!!!) A major condition of the Liberal Democrats in the talks was the promise to hold a referendum on changing the 'first past the post' system into some form of proportional representation. Wales did not reflect the U.K. pattern and showed different types of swings in various seats. The detailed results for Wales shown in the map can be broken down into four broad trends. 1) The western areas where the Welsh language is strongest has three Plaid

Cymru seats, but the nationalist party failed to win Anglesey or Ceredigion. 2) The old Mid-Wales pattern of three strong Liberal Democrat seats was broken with the loss of Montgomeryshire by the controversial M.P. Lembit Opik (of Latvian extraction). Perhaps his rather colourful personal life persuaded people to vote against him, despite a Liberal Democratic increase elsewhere. The party also held on to Cardiff Central, but failed to pick up Swansea West, where Labour won by 500 votes. 3) The Conservatives added to their 3 seats in peripheral areas of Wales, gaining seats in Pembrokeshire South, Vale of Glamorgan, and Aberconwy (part of the north Wales coastal resort belt that is being called 'costa geriatria'!). They also marginally won Cardiff North by 200 votes, held Monmouthshire and gained Montgomeryshire. 4) Labour is still the largest party, with 26 seats out of 40, located mainly in the old industrial heartlands of N. E. and S. Wales. Will the distribution change radically if Britain votes for a change to proportional representation? Since over 3/5<sup>th</sup> of Labour seats had majorities with over 40% of the votes cast and another 1/5<sup>th</sup> with over 37%, this is dubious, at least in industrial Wales - without a huge sea-change in Welsh voting habits. These results, combined with those in Scotland, where only one Conservative won, and Northern Ireland with its own regional parties, means that the Celtic fringe of the United Kingdom continues to have a very different political composition to England.

(June 2010 Newsletter: compiled by W. Davies)