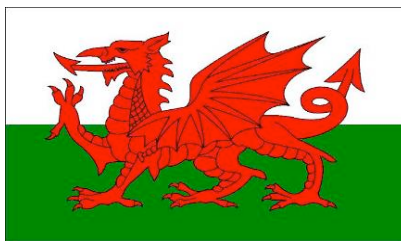


CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY, CYMDEITHAS GYMREIG CALGARY: NEWSLETTER, APRIL, 2011.

Executive Members.

President: Elaine Westlake,
256-4136 (welsh_gall3@yahoo.ca).

Vice-President/Social Convenor:
David L Matthews, 695-6928
(dawi_rae@yahoo.ca)



Secretary: Kathleen Johnson,
257-9557 (katehome@shaw.ca).

Treasurer: Norman Pierce,
278-9371 (taff.pierce@gmail.ca).

Membership Secretary: Jean Kuhn,
567-0507 (jeankuhn@shaw.ca).

The website (calgarywelshsociety) is designed and maintained by Quinten Beasley.

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday, April 30th. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 7. 00 p.m. at the Irish Cultural Centre (lower level), 6452, 35th Ave., N.W. (Bowness area). Doors open at 6.30. p.m.

Please attend this important event. Further information, including nomination details, is provided on a separate page enclosed with this newsletter. There will be door prizes, finger foods, entertainment and a cash bar.

Sunday, May 15th. 'SPRING IS SINGING', 7.00 p.m. at Christ Church, 3602, 8th St., S.W.

After the success of the function last year the Calgary Welsh Society will sponsor its second production of this event. Edith Pritchard, Laura Styler-Jones, Derek Johnson and Jason Erhardt, accompanied by Ron Bennie, return to entertain us with a selection of music from the world of Welsh music, popular musicals and opera. Audience participation in the singing of some Welsh favourites, will be part of in the second half of the program. **Admission is free to CWS members and the public.**

June. Would anyone like to help organize a Car Treasure Hunt? If interested, contact David Matthews, ASAP.

Sunday, July 24th, 2.30. p.m.The annual **Calgary Welsh Society Family Picnic** will be held at Lake Bonavista park (near the shopping centre). Hamburgers, wieners and drinks will be provided. Once again, members are asked to bring a salad or dessert. Remember that the local community association does not allow alcohol in the site. Games will be organized for children and those young at heart. Let's hope that the weather will allow us to play some of the games this year!

July, 17-24th.The annual **Cwrs Cymraeg** will be held at **Shenandoah University in Winchester (Virginia).**

August 14th. We are going to apply for use of Casino Funds to hire a bus for members to attend the annual Gymanfa Ganu in Ponoka. More details will be provided at a later date.

Sept. 1-4th. The North American Festival of Wales will be held in Cleveland (Ohio) on these dates.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR CASINO DUTY.

We will be allocated a date for participation in a Casino sometime in the fourth quarter of 2011. We need to identify a person prepared to be the Casino Organizational Chairperson and require between 30 and 40 helpers over 2 days for approximately 6-8 hour shifts. We hope that you will be able to help. Many of our functions depend on funds from a previous Casino. Please contact any member of the executive to volunteer for this event.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE.

Our second annual **St. Dwynwen's Day** Family event on January 22, 2011, was another huge success. Almost 60 members, children and friends enjoyed a wonderful pot luck supper, followed by games, as well as fun singing and dancing to music provided by our D.J., Colin Lewis, a CWS member.

The **St. David's Day Dinner** at the Blackfoot Inn on February 26 was a fitting tribute to our patron saint. Seventy members, guests and children were present to experience delicious food, and wonderful music, performed mostly in Welsh, by Neil Shaw and Leela Aheer. Dave Watson entertained us with stories about his Welsh heritage and Barry Marks gave a stirring homage to St David. Many thanks to Barry and Marilyn Marks for donating the art work painted by Barry. Margaret and Derek Freedman were the lucky recipients of the painting.

Please mark your calendars for our **Annual General Meeting on April 30**. We'd like to see a huge turnout for this evening! At last year's AGM, motions were passed to amend our By-Laws and to get our society accounts professionally audited. These changes are ready for you to vote on. Hope to see you there!

We have been informed by AGLC that our **casino date** for the fourth quarter of 2011 will be determined by a random draw in May 2011. Thank you to members who have already promised to work at the casino. We still require a Chairperson whose job will be largely scheduling the event. Support and assistance will be given to this person. Will YOU please consider filling this role?

I look forward to seeing you at the exciting events planned for spring and summer 2011. Thanks for your continued support and enthusiasm. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact any executive member.

Iechyd da i chi gyd,

Elaine Westlake.

CREATING AN ARCHIVAL COLLECTION

Members of the Executive have gratefully accepted a number of donations from our members which help to spell out the history of Calgary Welsh Society. They include such contributions as: pictures, plaques, programs, newsletters, minutes of meetings, books, letters, a Welsh costume. We plan to compile and catalogue all donations, to produce an **archival collection** that can be viewed by members and displayed at CWS events. **We know there are many more ITEMS that can be gathered and would appreciate your help in receiving more donations.** If you have any items similar to those mentioned above that were presented to CWS and are in your safe keeping, or that you are willing to donate from your personal collections, we would appreciate receiving them. Please contact the President by Email or at 403-256-4136

RESULTS OF SURVEY (Carried out at the St David's Day celebration).

- 1) Do you find the cost of admission to the dinners high? **YES - 21% . NO - 79%.**
- 2) It has been suggested that instead of having two dinners per year at venues such as the ones we use, that the CWS hold: a) one buffet or served dinner for St David's Day Dinner at a venue such as the Blackfoot Inn or Fort Calgary, AND one buffet or served dinner for the Christmas Celebration at a rented community center, with food catered by a recommended catering company. [A catered dinner could cost significantly less. Would you support such a change? **YES - 78% . NO - 22% .**
- 3) Would you support a change from a Sunday evening Christmas Dinner to a Sunday lunch-time Christmas Dinner? **YES – 79%. NO - 21%**
(33 responses were obtained for the 3 questions)

The executive will review the results and will bring forward suggestions for our next Christmas Dinner at our upcoming A.G.M. The website version of this Newsletter contains a sample of comments that accompanied the votes.

WALES AND POLITICS

A referendum was held in Wales on March 3rd to allow the Assembly to pass laws in several new areas without reference to the U.K. Parliament. It achieved 64% support. Only Monmouthshire of Welsh local governments voted against, marginally.

One of the little known facts of the recent revolution in Egypt is its Welsh connection. The wife of the former President, Hosni Mubarak, is half-Welsh. Her mother was Lily Palmer, a nurse from Pontypridd, who moved to London in the 1930s and married an Egyptian doctor. They moved to Cairo where the son became an air force general, then President when Sadat was assassinated. Mrs Mubarak is rumoured to be in London, presumably living on the wealth of the Mubarak family.

At the other end of the political spectrum is another Welsh connection. The bombastic President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, is being advised by a former Swansea radical, Alan Woods. Woods was a well-known Marxist activist in his younger days in Swansea, prominent in all demonstrations. Now based in London and editor of a Marxist website, Woods visits Venezuela frequently. One of his publications, 'Reformation or Revolution', has been praised by Chavez in his regular T.V performances and Woods is seen as an influential adviser to this controversial leader.

In Australia, the Barry-born politician Julia Gillard who became Leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister in 2010 called an election after only a few months in power. She managed, barely, to win the summer General Election and continues as Prime Minister with support from the Green Party, but with a tiny majority in the Lower House of Parliament.

WELSH LINKS WITH T.V. SERIES SHOWN IN CANADA

The town of Barry, built around the port created to export coal from the Rhondda, is the setting for the Welsh comedy series 'Gavin and Stacey' which has been aired on B.B.C. Canada. It is certainly funny but gives an insight into contemporary Welsh life which is very different to the Welsh society that existed when many of the CSW members left for Canada! The Sci.F. series, Doctor Who and Torchwood, are produced in Cardiff, and show many scenes of places in the vicinity of the capital. Another popular series that that aired on P.B.S. in January was 'Downton Abbey', the mythical home of the Earl of Grantham in the early 1900s. Since the programmes attracted an audience of almost 10 million in the U.K. another series is in production. At first sight the programmes would seem to have no Welsh or Canadian connections. However the series is set in the real Highclere House (Hampshire), the country home of the 8th Earl of Carnarvon (the family spelling!). Although there had been previous holders of the title, the current family traces its lineage to the revival of the title in 1793 when Henry Herbert, the grandson of Margaret, wife of the Earl of Pembroke, was given the title by George 3rd. The Herbert family were one of the most prominent of the Anglo-Norman dynasties involved in the conquest of Wales and usually fought on the Yorkist side against the Lancastrians and the allied house of Tudor in the Wars of the Roses. The spectacular Highclere gardens were laid out by the influential landscaper, 'Capability Brown', in 1774-77. The mansion was constructed between 1839-42, in a revival of the high Elizabethan-Italianate style. It has echoes of the British Parliament because it was built by the same architect, Charles Barry. (Incidentally, it seems that his name has no association with the home-town of either the mythical Stacey, or actually to the Barry-born mother of the famous footballer, Ryan Giggs, who should be a Wilson had he not rejected the name of his Cardiff-born father in his teens!) However there IS a significant link to Canada. The 4th Earl of Carnarvon was Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1867 and signed the initial draft of what became the British North America Act which created the Dominion of Canada in the same year. History buffs

might also like to know that the famous portrait of the 'Fathers of Confederation' was painted by Robert Harris in 1884. He came from North Wales and was one of the most famous landscape and portrait painters of his day in Wales and Canada.

MAEN HEN WLAD FY NHADAU

Did you know that our national anthem was originally known as Glan Rhondda? The tune was created in 1856 by the young harpist Evan James when he was walking along the banks of the river Rhondda almost at its junction with the Taff, a place that is now part of the town centre of Pontypridd. Evan's father, James, composed the words during the following week. The song was first sung publically by a Pontypridd soprano, Elizabeth John, in the vestry of Maesteg's Tabor Chapel. Perhaps it was fitting that Maesteg was the location, since the Pontypridd-Maesteg axis is renowned in geological terms. It is the name of an anticline lying within the great syncline that composes the South Wales coalfield which brought up the coal seams to an accessible level in the central part of the region. Without it, the coal seams would have been too deep to exploit, given nineteenth century technology. Glan Rhondda became well known when it was included in a collection of new Welsh airs by Thomas Llewellyn of Aberdare in 1858 and was published in a booklet of melodies by John Owen two years later. The song gradually became more and more popular in local singing festivals and was chosen as the anthem of Wales, but using the first line of the song as a title. The achievements of the composers have been recognized by a bronze statute of the composers in Ynysangharad Park in Pontypridd.

CWRS CYMRAEG, CARDIFF 2010: WELSH LANGUAGE COURSE

Tracy Burr was successful in her application for support from the Casino Fund to help her attend the meeting. Her report on her hard work in the course and visits to famous Welsh sites is included in the web-edition of this Newsletter.

SPORTS NEWS

In Canada, Bronwen Webster (formerly Saunders and daughter of Iwan and Linda) won the Alberta Curling Championship this year as part of the Kleibrink team. Congratulations on a major achievement Bronwen! Unfortunately, they were a win short of gaining a play-off place in the recent Canadian Curling Championship. Better luck next year!

Welsh rugby continues to frustrate fans. Despite narrow victories over Ireland and Italy and a convincing win over Scotland, the team lost to England in the first game of the season. They managed to gift two easy tries to a resurgent France in their defeat in Paris. Things do not look good for the World Cup in New Zealand in the Fall.

The soccer teams also are having mixed fortunes, with periods of success then failure. However, on current form, both Swansea and Cardiff should clinch at least play-off places to join the Premier Division next year, and bring back Premier League soccer to South Wales for the first time in several decades. The international team continue their dismal performance by losing 2-0 to England. In the Under 21 European competition, Wales beat Andorra 1-0. Is this the start of a revival??

Lowri Morgan won the 6633 Extra Ultra Marathon in March. This involved running the 350 miles between Eagle Plains and Tuktoyaktuk in the Arctic AND pulling a sled with her overnight camping equipment, clothes and food. She was the only finisher this year! Lowri was born in Gowerton, went to school in Ystalyfera and graduated in music in Cardiff University. Currently a Welsh language T.V presenter, she trained by running up and down Snowdon. Her performance was astonishing!

WEBSITE APPENDIX TO THE APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER.

1) DETAILED RESULTS OF SURVEY AT THE ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS (33 responses).

a) Do you find the cost of admission to the dinners high? **YES - 21% . NO - 79%.**

A sample of comments: *"reasonable"*; *"High, but I understand reasons"*; *"For a family this puts the cost of the evening over \$100"*; *"No, it isn't just a dinner, it's a night of entertainment, if my husband and I were to dine at a restaurant and then go to a movie or show the costs would be significantly higher"*;

2. It has been suggested that instead of having two dinners per year at venues such as the ones we use, that the CWS hold: a) one buffet or served dinner for St David's Day Dinner at a venue such as the Blackfoot Inn or Fort Calgary, AND one buffet or served dinner for the Christmas Celebration at a rented community center, with food catered by a recommended catering company. [A catered dinner could cost significantly less.]

Would you support such a change? YES - 78% . NO - 22% .

A sample of comments: *"Would be happy with a community center or church hall"*; *"no ambience in community center, probably would not attend"*; *"a caterer would greatly reduce costs"*; *"costs not critical for us...prefer current set-up"*; *"Try it and if it doesn't work go back to what it was!"*; *"as long as the facility was quite central and a significant saving in costs"*;

3. Would you support a change from a Sunday evening Christmas Dinner to a Sunday lunch-time Christmas Dinner? YES - 79%. NO - 21% .

A sample of comments: *"seems a good idea"*; *"provided it was earlier in Dec., middle Sundays is often a Church pageant day OR start lunch at 1pm"*; *"nice Sunday evenings, one day a year won't hurt children, parents may wish to leave earlier"* *"Good idea i.e. 2 pm'ish"*; *"Yes CWS have to think of aging members who might not like driving at night esp in Dec, as well as children who daytime would suit better."*

The executive will consider the above results and will bring forward suggestions for our next Christmas Dinner at our upcoming A.G.M.

2. REPORT ON CWRS CYMRAEG, 2010, IN WALES

by Tracy Burr

On July 22, I left for Wales, flying into Gatwick, then taking the train into Cardiff. Cymdeithas Madog would be staying in the Cardiff University, University Hall campus. A wonderful benefit at this location was private bathrooms for each room! After leaving my backpack at the school, I was free to explore the city, or at least until I ran out of energy.

The next day was Saturday, and I headed back downtown to focus on shopping, exploring and taking pictures. On Sunday I met a new friend and we explored St Fagan's, an outdoor museum, rather like our Heritage Park, but covering 400 years of Welsh history. Fascinating! Our only regret was having to leave in order to join Cymdeithas Madog for the evening Orientation. This year the course was named the Cwrs Cymru Deg 2010 (Beautiful Wales Course). It was attended by about 45 people from Canada, the U.S. and Wales.

Monday was the first full day of the schedule. We divided into our classes, according to our level of knowledge, and the instruction began. My teacher was Hefina, one of the people instrumental in this organization. Our classes included vocabulary, speaking and grammar. We began by a review of last year's material, such as numbers, time, work, or asking questions. In Level 2 we are introduced to the dreaded mutations! I discovered there are many ways to answer a question 'yes or no'. We also began learning two new tenses, the present perfect and the Imperfect. Pronouns and adjectives are also covered, as were some prepositions and the differences between must vs. want. I thought the way it was presented to be a good base for subsequent years.

As in the previous year, the schedule is very packed. Each day had 4 ½ hours classroom instruction. Four of the afternoons had a guest speaker, including the curator of the Welsh museums, who featured a talk on a jewel of St Fagan's museum, the medieval church of St Teilo. Sadly, this was one area we had totally missed because of a lack of time! On Tuesday we learned about the Urdd Gobeith Cymru, a youth movement offering many activities with a Welsh emphasis. Another spoke on politics and the struggle for Welsh self rule. On Friday we were delighted to meet Dafydd Iwan, a man who has been so important for Wales through both his singing and music industry and politics. That evening, he performed an exclusive small concert for us in the pub, and chatted with many people.

The evenings were also planned. Monday evening featured folk dancing, and we were led by a talented local small band. Tuesday evening we took taxis to the Mochyn Du pub, where the famous quiz night was held. Great fun for everyone, and even some locals sitting in the pub became involved. I'm sure they had no idea the evening was going to be so lively! Thursday was Noson Gymdeithasol, or Social evening, where we headed back to our favourite private pub. We were entertained by an impromptu performance from some friends of Chris's. And of course, those involved in the choir had evening practises, and homework was expected to be done nightly. Who had time for sleep?

Wednesday afternoon was spent on a bus tour of Cardiff, starting with tea at the Lord Mayor's house. He also presented each of us with a book on the history of Cardiff, entirely in Welsh. We next visited places in Cardiff Bay, an area very transformed from the past. We toured the Senedd, the new government building with very advanced environmental

design features. Also in this area are the Millennium Centre, the new arts centre, the historic Pierhead Building, the Norwegian Church Arts Centre, and the Roald Dahl Plas. Our tour continued on to Penarth, an area equally important and wealthy in the days of coal shipping. We saw a closer view of the Barrage, the barrier that was constructed in 1999, to provide steady water levels in the bay to promote development. Our tour finished at a restaurant, the Mimosa, named after the ship that left Wales and sailed to Patagonia to start a new colony in 1865.

Saturday was a special day, as we headed up to Ebbw Vale to see the Eisteddfod, the national music and prose festival. This is a massive weeklong event, featuring tents for competitions in different categories, activities for all ages, and booths for various interests and merchants. I was delighted to be able to purchase Welsh music CDs, and various books in Welsh, such as grammar guides, dictionaries, histories and simple books, as they are extremely rare here in Calgary. That evening we returned to the University to hold our personal Eisteddfod, where we learned Rob had won the chair for this year, for his very fine paper. The Choir then performed, and then we enjoyed the banquet. In the speeches that followed, we learned where we would be meeting next year, and who was joining the Board, as well as stepping down.

On Sunday many of us returned to the Eisteddfod, where we attended the Sunday morning service featuring a musical by a wonderful youth group. After visiting a few more booths, my friends and I drove off to begin an impromptu tour of Wales. Our first stop was the 12 century church of St Illtyd's. It is believed there has been a church presence on this site for at least 1000 years. Fortunately, our visit coincided with their Sunday afternoon hours, and we were able to enter the church and take pictures. When we finally tore ourselves away, we proceeded to Caerphilly Castle, where we thoroughly explored everything. This was my second visit here, and I was happy the restoration of the leaning tower was completed and the scaffolding removed. Also open now is the White Tower which was restored in 2006. This day concluded with the interesting experience of trying to find our way back to the school in Cardiff at night.

Monday morning we headed east to see Tintern Abbey, the biggest item on my 'hope to see' list. We explored the ruins outside the entrance until it opened, then began our exploration of this beautiful abbey. Photographs do not give a true sense of how massive this cathedral was, and walking through the Nave one feels very small. There are extensive ruins of the supporting buildings, the kitchen, the infirmary, the abbots' residence, and the chapter house.

Reluctantly we departed from Tintern and headed south to the interesting town of Chepstow. Our focus here was Chepstow Castle, with its dramatic location on the bank of the river Wye. One feature here is the oldest gateway doors existing in Europe, dating no later than the 1190s. We all agreed the town itself is worthy of a longer more detailed visit in itself.

Our next destination was Raglan Castle to the north. Of a later age and size, it is notable for the Great Tower and the Elizabethan age rooms. This was followed by a visit to Caerleon, where we walked around the Roman amphitheatre.

Tuesday we headed the car towards the west, first searching for a couple of megalithic burial chambers, Tinkinswood and St Lythan. This was followed by a visit to Coity Castle, near Bridgend. We also achieved our goal of reaching Neath Abbey. Equally interesting as Tintern Abbey, it differs in that less of the actual cathedral remains, but more of the outbuildings remain, as they were renovated during Elizabethan times as a manor house. As were leaving, we

discovered we could borrow the key to the locked door. Inside the room was a collection of medieval tiles that are being collected and restored.

Thoroughly satisfied with all we had seen, we wandered back to Cardiff, but not without stopping at the coast at Porthcawl, and discovering Ogmere Castle. Once more we found our way back to the school in the dark, and began the difficult process of packing for departure in the morning. It's not easy packing 18 pounds of books into a backpack!

Wednesday was the day of departure from Cardiff, and as I boarded the train to return to Gatwick, I said goodbye to an absolutely wonderful week of experiences. I would like to thank Elaine Westlake and the Board of the Calgary Welsh Society for their extremely generous sponsorship of this learning experience. I know I am only beginning to learn Welsh, the iaith y nefoedd, or language of heaven.

end

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Calgary Welsh Society

When: Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 7: 00 p.m.

Where: Irish Cultural Centre (lower level)

6452, 35 Ave., N.W. (Bowness area)

Executive positions are renewed annually. We welcome nominations for all available positions. These are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and three (3) Director-at-large positions

Please send your nomination to one of the Nominating Committee by April 26, 2011. Nominations may be sent by e-mail or regular mail. **Nominations will also be accepted at the A.G.M.**

The Nominating Committee consists of:

Brian Lewis,

86, Edgeview Dr., N.W.

Calgary, AB. T3A4W9.

Phone: 403-547-6626

E-mail: lewdel@shaw.ca

Dave Watson,

5604, 37 St.,

Calgary. AB. T3E 5M6.

Phone: 403-249-5764

E-mail: daveandbettyw@shaw.ca

The nomination form should read as follows:

April__ 2011 (date)

I _____ (your name) nominate _____

(nominee's name) for the position of _____ (fill in position) in the
Calgary Welsh Society.

(Add the name of the person you nominated) _____ has accepted the nomination.

Signed _____ (your signature)

PLEASE ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

The **Calgary Welsh Society** belongs to you, its members, and it can only operate successfully and thrive with your participation and input. There will be door prizes, finger foods, entertainment and a cash bar. **Doors open at 6:30.**

When Society work is shared it is quite manageable and enjoyable!