

# Cymdeithas Gymraeg



## Victoria Welsh Society

Newsletter: Chwefror 2017 February

### ***Board Members***

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| <b><i>President</i></b> | Margaret Lintern  | 250-642-6747 |
| <b><i>Secretary</i></b> | Gillian Greydanus | 250-642-2076 |
| <b><i>Treasurer</i></b> | Jen Pearson       | 250-477-2548 |

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| <b><i>Past President</i></b> | Nerys Hughes | 250-479-8742 |
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| <b><i>Trustees</i></b> | David Lintern | 250-642-6747 |
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## Notice – 2016 memberships are now overdue - \$ 20 single , \$ 25 family.

### ■ If in arrears you can still pay for 2016

#### From the Editor

Another year starting for the Society. We shall surely see it through but there's little doubt that we're on a downward slope. Some are now former members; they have not renewed their memberships in years and have made no contact with any members of the Board. In future they will not receive a paper copy of the newsletter. Those whose membership has lapsed and have been receiving an electronic copy will continue to receive it for a while as it costs nothing to transmit..

To those faithful members who pay their dues and attend functions as they are able the Board says " thanks for your support."

#### Society News

The 2016 Annual General Meeting was held on October 15 in the public meeting room at 4125 Interurban Road. Thanks are due to Nerys Hughes for making the arrangements to hold the meeting here. Lunch of faggots and peas followed by Welsh cakes ( what else ) was supplied by Margaret Lintern and Gill Greydanus,

The usual item regarding declining membership was discussed and it was decided to carry on as long as we are solvent,

Members of the outgoing Board agreed to continue and their number was augmented by Bea Buchanan who agreed to help, if requested, subject to good health. ( Thank you Bea! and thanks to the returning Board.)

We shall celebrate St. David's Day in 2017 on February 25 and shall be returning to a former venue, the University Club at the University of Victoria. As usual we shall gather in the bar and

ante room at 11.30 a.m. and sit down to lunch at noon. The cost is now settled and will be f \$ 40 per person Entertainment by "Black Angus: a duo who were enjoyed last year will follow the meal. So, please make a note of the date and time and wait for details to follow.

Recently some members of the Board met at the home of Margaret and David Lintern to sort out written material pertaining to Victoria Welsh Society activities of former years. The objective of this exercise was to save material that would be the basis of an Archive. Amongst the most fascinating finds were ledger books containing handwritten minutes of meetings of the society in Victoria in the early 1930's. Also there were printed programmes for St. David's Day dinners more than 50 years ago. The past is always entertaining.

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#### News from Wales

*We are indebted to " Ninnau", the North American Welsh Newspaper for the following pieces from Wales:*

*" Aberfan is a place where children from all around the Valleys come to play and where the river Taff, once black with industrial waste now runs clear. Otters and kingfishers have returned. But this picture may not be the one that many hold since that dreadful day when a massive slag heap slid down the hill above Pantglas Junior school, to kill 116 children and 29 adults. The tragedy woven into the psychology and history of Aberfan will always be there but after 50 years the community has moved on.*

*A quarter of a mile from the memorial garden where Pantglas School once stood the Trinity Child and Family Centre is filled with the laughter and noise of children. The Centre provides childcare,*

parent and toddler groups, after school, breakfast and holiday clubs for 52 children of all ages up to 12 for 51 weeks of the year.

*Mothers with their children meeting there and others say that, 50 years on the tragedy does not define them or the village. They don't want to deny the tragedy but say that the village is more than that.*

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A cheese company in Newcastle Emlyn, in West Wales, is celebrating its success at a food and drink fair in Tokyo. *Caws Cenarth* created waves and also raves with its four Welsh cheeses. A deal was made between the company and Japanese businessman *Okura Agri* to supply their product which is sold in small gift-sized packages in Japan.

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The two men behind the famous hymn “Calon Lan” are to be honoured with blue plaques in their hometown, Swansea, or Abertawe as they would have known it.

The music for the hymn, published in 1892, was composed by John Hughes and the words were by Daniel James.

John Hughes, born in 1872, spent all his working days with the Dyffryn Steel Works in Morriston, starting as an office boy and rising through the ranks to become marketing manager..His plaque will be installed at Caersalem Welsh Baptist Chapel where he was organist until his death in 1914.

Daniel James, born in 1848, worked at Morriston's iron works and at Landore's tinplate works. After his death in 1920 he was buried in Mynyddbach Cemetary and his plaque will be installed outside Mynyddbach Chapel.

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A tunnel under the Menai Strait which will contain cables linking Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station

to the power grid is set to cost £100 million and will take up to 5 years to complete.

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North Wales has been recognised as one of the best regions in the world to travel to – this part of the country has made it onto the “Lonely Planet's” top ten in in places to visit in 2017. It is the only destination in Britain to do so and is described as “ a playground for thrill seekers, a haven for “ foodies”, a hideout for stargazers and a goldmine for heritage seekers. The region came fourth in the Lonely Planet's world ranking. (*There, we always knew it was true that phoning Heaven from North Wales was a local call.—Ed.*)

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An old drinking place favoured by Dylan Thomas faces closure unless a petition against plans by the brewery SA Brains is successful. The pub in question is the Dolau Inn, in New Quay, Ceredigion. The Dolau dates from 1750 and was frequented by Thomas in 1944-45 when the poet lived in New Quay. Reportedly it was also frequented by Thomas' wife, Caitlin and also by one Alistair Graham, a nephew of the Duchess of Montrose and supposedly the inspiration for Lord Cut-Glass in Under Milk Wood.

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## Welsh Sports

- After that dizzying run in the European Cup the Welsh football team ( notice that I did not call it “Soccer”-Ed. ) are struggling in the qualifying round for the next World Cup competition. They have earned draws against Austria, Serbia and Georgia and are presently lying 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 5. Their next game is against Republic of Ireland, away, in March, This could be a make or break affair. In the competition so far. Gareth Bale has been Wales' leading scorer.

- Swansea City have not had a good season in the Premier league, so far. They were at the foot of the table. But that did not prevent them beating Liverpool ( 2<sup>nd</sup> in table) at Liverpool, recently. Is this the start of a great come-back from relegation? Time will tell.
- In the final test of the autumn series the Welsh XV beat the Springboks 27-15 but were not totally convincing. The inexperienced South African XV were suffering perhaps the worst run of defeats in the long history of South African rugby.

Wales faces a tough Six nations competition soon with Rob Howley in charge, as Warren Gatland is taking a sabbatical to lead the British Lions in their tour of New Zealand in the summer of 2017. The other home nations showed significant progress and achieved some success in their Southern tours this past autumn whereas Wales were soundly beaten at home by Australia ( 38-8) and only just prevailed against Argentina by four points, ( 24-20) and won 33-30 against a very inexperienced Japanese XV. It must be said though that Wales had made ten changes in their XV for that game.

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#### News from Canada/USA

A very successful North American Festival of Wales ( Nafow ) took place in Calgary in September last year. Your Editor and also Past President, Nerys Hughes, attended. The Festival was held over four days. Another familiar face was that of Dave Western, the lovespoon carver of this city. He of course had a table offering his output in the “ market place”.

The invited choir was “Cor Meibion Colwyn”, from Old Colwyn, North Wales with acclaimed mezzo-soprano Edith Pritchard, a native of Edmonton, also performing. The very large Knox United church in downtown Calgary was packed for the Grand Concert. The choir also led the congregation at the church service on the Sunday morning and at the Gymanfa in the afternoon.

The organizers of the Festival had provided a full (even over- flowing) programme of workshops and lectures so no-one could be bored. It was a memorable event for your Editor and the four or five hundred others.

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The NAFOW in 2017 will be held in Rochester, New York . ( *This may be a little far for those of us living in Victoria – unless you should happen to be visiting Toronto or some other city in Southern Ontario in August/ September- If you should be there I urge you to attend-.Ed.*)

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#### STOP PRESS

The first matches in the 2017 Six Nations tournament were held on Saturday and Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

The results were :

Scotland 27 – Ireland 22  
 England 19 – France 16  
 Wales 27 – Italy 7.

The next game to look out for is Wales versus England in Cardiff on February 11.

**That’s all for this issue.**

**Pob Hwyl**