

# Cymdeithas Gymraeg



## Victoria Welsh Society

Newsletter:                      Gorffennaf                      2012                      July

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**Notice – Unpaid 2012 memberships are now overdue.**

## From the Editor

Dyma ni yn mis Gorffennaf yn barod. Here we are already in July. The weather has improved after what (so I'm told) has been, for B.C., the coldest winter in 35 years followed by a long cool spring. Not bone chilling cold here in Victoria but too many weeks of miserable cold, grey dampness. But there has been a riot of colour in the gardens of Victoria with the azaleas and rhododendrons in full bloom – the flowering cherry trees have made their showing and let's not forget the promise of blackcurrant pie. Yes, in the words of that anonymous 13<sup>th</sup> Century poet:

*Sumer is icumen in,  
Lhude sing cuccu!  
Groweth sed and bloweth med,  
And springeth the wude nu—  
Sing cuccu!*  
-----Ed.

## Society News

Saint David's Day was celebrated with a well attended gathering at the Gorge Vale Golf Club on February 25<sup>th</sup>; more than 60 members and friends were in attendance.

A wonderful lunch was served –leek soup, roast lamb and Welsh cakes.

Entertainment followed, the highlight being a recital by Eve Richardson with accompanist Taylor Winfrey, both students at the Conservatory of Music. Eve sang a selection of Welsh folk songs including Suo Gan (The Gentle Dove) and Dafydd y Garreg Wen (David of the White Rock). David Lintern shone, as usual, as emcee, with a number of jokes and stories. He also showed an amazing clip of his grand-father's appearance in a 1950's BBC documentary. Mel Jones, the guest speaker, did an excellent job and recounted the reasons many of us left our homeland for Canada.

The President of the Vancouver Island Branch of the Commonwealth Society, Wendy Halliday was also present. She gave a brief talk and gave the Toast to the Queen. Emrys Evans was eloquent in his Toast to Canada and also to Wales and St. David. A novel and fun addition to the festivities was the drawing for

several bottles of Celt Ale, newly imported into B.C. from Caerphilly. (Thanks to Manuel Barreira of Global Wine Merchants for providing them). The day ended fittingly with a slide show on Wales and the singing of Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau.

*Thanks are due to the Board and in particular to David Lintern, Jen Pearson and Emrys Evans for their work in making the celebration such a success. – And thanks to the President, Nerys, for the report.---Ed.*

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Since the last newsletter we have been saddened by the deaths of two long time members of the Society :

*Glanville Jones* in February.

*Anita Davies* in March.

Our condolences as a Society and individuals go out to their families.

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The last Board meeting, before a summer break, was held on May 17. One of the items on the agenda concerned concerts in Victoria by Welsh choirs next year – unfortunately a concert this year is not likely. (The National Festival of Wales Is to be held in Pennsylvania so the Festival choir is not expected to tour the West).

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At the March meeting, as a result of the excellent experience of holding our St. David's Day celebration at the Gorge Vale Golf Club it was decided to hold next year's event there, also – on March 2, 2013. (*Mark your calendars now! – Ed.*)

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**The Annual General Meeting will be held on October 18 in the James Bay New Horizons Hall, 234 Menzies Street, commencing at 6:00 p.m.**

**Please make a note of this important meeting and plan to attend. The future is in your hands.**

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Myfanwy Rutherford will be celebrating another birthday on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Society are invited to the party. From 2.0 p.m. onwards. *So come along! –Ed.*

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#### News from Wales

Cardiff University is offering Welsh language courses at several levels from beginners up. The instruction will be given in the *Welsh for Adults Centre* which is part of the *School of Welsh*, located on Colum Drive near Cathays Park.

Instruction will run from July 2 until August 24. One can choose between two, four, six and eight week long courses. The cost begins at £149 for two weeks rising to £540 for the full eight weeks.

Benefits include a free trip to the National Eisteddfod, free computer access and regular sessions in the language lab.

Self catering accommodation in a hall of residence is offered at a cost of £300 for two weeks.

The phone number is 29 208 74710 and the e-mail address is [welshforadults@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:welshforadults@cardiff.ac.uk)

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The National Eisteddfod is to be held on the site of the former Llandow airfield, near Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, from August 4 to August 11.

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“Wales is preparing to become the first country in the World to make it compulsory for local governments to provide safe and integrated routes for walking and cycling. This is part of an ambitious plan to boost green travel and end the hegemony of the car.”

The above quote is part of an article that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on May 14,

written by Peter Walker.

It goes on,” Welsh councils and other authorities will be obliged to identify, plan and implement walking and cycling routes and how they can be integrated. The hope is that creating a network of safe routes will tempt people out of their vehicles.----- Travel in the U.K. remains dominated by the car.----- Despite a recent increase in the popularity of cycling only about 2% of journeys in the U.K. are made by bike, compared with 27% in the Netherlands.”

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The Welsh Government recently butted heads with the Westminster Government over the matter of a cull of badgers, which are suspected of causing tuberculosis in cattle. Instead a programme of inoculating badgers against the disease is to be implemented in the Principality. (*Hmm! Do those members of the Cardiff talking shop know what it takes to shove a needle into a roused badger? Mae'r pobl yna yn llawer twp! – Ed.*)

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#### Welsh Sports

- It was gratifying to see that Swansea City had a relatively successful first season in the Premier League, finishing just below the halfway position. They made themselves felt in their fixtures with the Big Four. Let's hope that losing their manager, Brendan Rodgers, to Liverpool F.C. will not reflect badly next season.
- What a disappointing end to Wrexham's season. After occupying the first or second place for most of the season they had to play-off with the third finisher to qualify for promotion to the next division – they lost so it's back to the Blue Square for another season.
- Again Cardiff City, after a promising performance for much of the season, again failed to gain promotion to the Premier League. Maybe next season!

- The Welsh rugby XV, on tour in Australia, failed to come up with a win against their hosts. In three games played in June they lost 27-19, 25-23 and 20-19. Can the boys keep improving? We shall have to wait until Nov.24 and Dec.1 when the play New Zealand and then Australia at the Millennium Stadium. But, a word of warning, England has played some very close matches with South Africa on their recent tour too. Next season's Six Nations contest may not produce the Grand Slam.

at I'll take my vacation in Dowlais.-Ed.)

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And now for something different ...

Earlier this year an acquaintance living in Caernarfon e-mailed this fine photo of the Menai Straits and bridges. It was taken from a hang-glider.



Since we are now looking at pictures does anyone know anything about the following old black and white? It was e-mailed to the Society by a gentleman named Andy who lives in Gateshead. He thinks it was taken in 1923.



Where are they now? –Ed.

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*Now enjoy the summer – mwynhauwch yr haf !*

News from  
Canada/ USA

This year's North American Festival of Wales (Nafow) is to be held in Scranton, Pennsylvania from August 28 through September 3. The venue is the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center, 100 Adams Ave.

The noted Welsh folk singer (and rescuer of derelict villages), Dafydd Iwan will perform at the opening ceremony.

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Karan Smith, travel concierge for the Globe and Mail, recently published some advice for a person who wanted to know what he or she should see if visiting North Wales. The answers included 641 castles, 1200 km. of coastline, 11 million sheep and one Royal couple. The advice continued by offering Cardiff as a good starting point before heading north, after a leisurely lunch in the Ffresh (Sic) Restaurant at the Millennium Centre( no mention of what lies between the Ffresh Restaurant and the North ). Snowdonia National Park got a mention and postcards should certainly be mailed in Llanfairpwllgwyngyll ..... ( you know the rest). Oh! I almost forgot but a visit to Llandudno was also suggested because "the girl who inspired *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* spent her summer vacations there." (After a buildup like