

# Cymdeithas Gymraeg



## Victoria Welsh Society

Newsletter:                      Mai      2013      May

### ***Board Members***

<b><i>President</i></b>	Nerys Hughes	250-479-8742
<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	Gillian Greydanus	250-642-2076
<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>	Jen Pearson	250-477-2548
<b><i>Ladies' Auxiliary</i></b>	Myfanwy Rutherford	250-382-9343
<b><i>Past President</i></b>	David Lintern	250-642-6747
<b><i>Trustees</i></b>	Margaret Lintern	250-642-6747
	Peter Gibson	250-386-0012
	Peter Murphy	250-383-4350
	Emrys Evans	250-652-5855
	Denis Brown	250-658-8701
	Lynne Thomas	250-383-3880
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**Notice – 2013 memberships are now overdue - \$ 20 single , \$ 25 family.**

### From the Editor

Once again St. David's Day, come and gone, and, as Welsh (or part Welsh), we were happy to celebrate the day. We joined many across Canada, possibly starting in St. John's but certainly in Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver. (If some Welsh Society has been left off the list I apologise – there are many Welsh Societies in Canada, not counting the USA.) We are everywhere!

### Society News

As those of you who attended know, the Society celebrated St. David's Day with lunch, followed by entertainment, at the Gorge Golf Club on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. For an account of the proceedings I can do no better than include the following report by our President, Nerys Hughes :-

“ We again assembled at the Gorge Golf Club to celebrate St. David's Day. On March 2, 2013, over 50 members and guests enjoyed a hot buffet lunch of leek soup, roast lamb, salmon and trifle. Our thanks to the golf club for again providing a wonderful meal.

Once again David Lintern was very entertaining as emcee for the day.

We enjoyed listening to our entertainer, soloist Andrea Paddock and her accompanist Braden Young. Andrea sang a number of Welsh folk songs including 'All through the night' and 'The Ash Grove'.

Denis Brown proposed the toast to Canada and Emrys Evans to the Queen. Lynne Thomas made some graceful remarks in her excellent toast to Wales and St. David .

Our guest speaker, John Llewellyn Davies, gave an inspiring talk on his work involving international students and their education.

The door prize of a gift basket was won by one of Emrys Evans' guests.

The only 'damper' on an otherwise successful event was that the Society had to pay for five 'no shows'. (*we can ill-afford these*).

Thanks to the Board, particularly Jen Pearson and Margaret and David Lintern."

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Sylvia Preto writes that the words to 'Ar Hyd y Nos', which was sung at our St. David's Day celebration, rather than a lullaby are in fact a hymn that tells us to open our eyes to the realisation that we are never alone.

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The Board met following St. David's Day, on March 15<sup>th</sup> to review the day and possibly recommend changes for next year. There was no suggestion for change from either the format or the venue for 2014. After expenses the net cost to the Society was \$ 482.97 plus the cost of the gift basket. It should be realized that the five 'no shows' cost \$200. It is hoped that this will not be repeated in the future

The Board will next meet on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

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### News from Wales

As reported in the national newspapers, in late April, there was a serious outbreak of measles amongst children in Wales, with more than 800 cases confirmed. The prediction is for double that figure within weeks. Up to two million children are at risk of infection because they were not immunized as babies.

While not confirmed as a result of the disease, one adult, from Port Tennant, Swansea, has died. He may have contracted measles from his baby daughter.

Health officials blame the large scale non-immunization on the MMR ( Measles, Mumps and Rubella ) scare of 1998 in which a report, that was published in *The Lancet*, suggested a *link between autism and vaccination for MMR*. That report is now discredited.

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Five comely Welsh ladies, dressed in National costume, were refused entry to Harrods' on St. David's Day because their outfits "did not meet the dress code" of the exclusive London store!

The group which included a doctor, an NHS manager, a lawyer and a fashion

designer had each spent £ 200 on their traditional costumes. They were on a week-end theatre trip to London from Bridgend and a visit to Harrods champagne bar was in their itinerary. A uniformed female security officer told them "You can't come in here dressed like that." Only when the women protested that they were being racially discriminated against did the staff back down.

Harrods management later apologized, saying that it was all due to a misunderstanding ( *We've heard that before!* ) and always welcome visitors in national costume.

( *Thanks to Peter Murphy for this gem.-Ed.* )

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The Llangollen International Eisteddfod will be held from July 9-14. Children's Day will be on July 9, after the opening parade from the town and in the evening the opening concert featuring a "Mega" choir composed of five well known Welsh choirs. ( *Just "Google" Llangollen International and see the details.* )

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The National Eisteddfod will also be held in North Wales, on the outskirts of Denbigh, from August 2- 10.

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### Welsh Sports

- As we all know Wales won the Six Nations Championship with a convincing 30-3 win over England. ( *Now if only they could do the same to the New Zealanders!* )
- Swansea City again held their own in the Premier League. They will be joined by rivals Cardiff next season. ( *Two Welsh Clubs in the top division! Amazing! I remember both in the old third division.- Ed.* )
- Wrexham could possibly escape from the Blue Square division. They are in the play-off with four other teams, one of which is Newport.
- Glamorgan have made a good start in this season's County Cricket but for

promotion to the first division there's a long way to go.

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News from  
Canada/U.S.A.

A reminder that the North American Festival of Wales is to be held in Toronto this year from August 28 until September 2 at the Fairmont Royal York hotel. Room rates are \$111 single or double and 141 triple or quad, per night, plus taxes. ( No charge for children under 18 but it is necessary to inform the hotel at the time of booking.) Booking can be done by calling 1-800-441-1414 , before August 8. State North American Festival of Wales to get the preferred rate.

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Cymdeithas Madog will be holding a one week course in Welsh language instruction again this year. This will be at Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois ( close to Chicago ) from July 14-21. Instruction will be at several levels from beginner upwards. Details and how to register can be obtained by going to [www.madog.org](http://www.madog.org)

Following the course there will be a week long Welsh Heritage Week at the college commencing with a mini Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday, July 21. For information go to [www.welshheritageweek.org](http://www.welshheritageweek.org) and if you have questions e-mail Beth Landmesser at [hwyl@ptd.net](mailto:hwyl@ptd.net)

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Can you see yourself as an on-the-spot Welsh language reporter for BBC Wales when some event of world importance happens here? If so you are invited to get in touch with Stephen Hughes. He is a Senior Broadcast Journalist at BBC Cymru in Cardiff. Call him at ( 29 ) 20 322 213 and/or email [stephen.hughes2@bbc.co.uk](mailto:stephen.hughes2@bbc.co.uk)

Wales and to whom we are indebted.)

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Is the muse within you struggling to get out and write those stories and poetry that the world of AmeriCymru wants to hear?

Then get in touch with ETO Magazine. Their website is [www.etomagazine.com](http://www.etomagazine.com)

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AND NOW, BELIEVE IT OR NOT ( shades of Ripley )

the following Americans all had some degree of Welsh blood in their veins :

John Adams, b. 1735, 2<sup>nd</sup>. President U.S.A.

Thomas Jefferson, b.1743, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pres. U.S.A.

James Monroe, b.1758, 5<sup>th</sup>. Pres. U.S.A.

William H. Harrison, b. 1773, 9<sup>th</sup>. Pres. U.S.A.

Abraham Lincoln ,b.1809, 17<sup>th</sup>. Pres. U.S.A.

James Garfield, b. 1831, 26<sup>th</sup>. Pres. U.S.A.

Richard M. Nixon, b. 1913, 37<sup>th</sup>. Pres. U.S.A.

Daniel Boone, b. 1734, Pioneer and Patriot.

John Brown , b. 1800, Abolitionist.

Hubert Humphrey, b. 1911, Vice- Pres. U.S.A.

Llewellyn M. Humphreys, b. 1899, gangster.

Jesse James, b.1847, desperado.

John L. Lewis, b.1880, labour leader.

Myrna Loy, b. 1905, Film actress.

Joseph Parry, b. 1841, composer ( “ Dies Irae,” “ Aberystwyth” and the opera “ Blodwen”).

Frank Lloyd Wright, b.1867, Architect.

Elihu Yale, b.1649, Patron of Yale University, (buried in Wrexham Parish Church ).

Martha Washington, b. 1731, First, First Lady .

*There are many more, variously named Cadwalader, Davies, Davis, Edwards, Evans ,Floyd, Griffiths, Hopkins, Hughes, James, Jones( 28 of them ), Lewis, Price, Protheroe, Pugh, Rees, Roberts, Thomas and Williams.*

( Extracted from “150 Famous Welsh Americans” by W. Arvon Roberts, published by Llygad Gwalch, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, North

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*Now it seems fitting to end, paying homage to the fair month of May in the words of Dafydd ap Gwilym, poet circa 1340:*

Mis Mai

Duw gwyddiad mai y gweddau

dechreuad mwyn dyfiad Mai.

Difeth irgyrs a dyfai

dyw Calan mis mwynlan Mai.

Digrinflaen goed a'm oedai,

Duw Mawr a roes doe y Mai.

Dillyn beirdd ni'm rhydwyllai,

da fydd ym oedd dyfod Mai.

( God knew the richness of fresh growth would well become the beginning of May, that without fail new shoots would grow upon the Calends of the gentle month of May.

Unwithered tips of boughs retarded me – yesterday great God gave May.

The poets' treasured jewel would not deceive me,

good was the life I had upon the coming of May. )

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*Enjoy your summer!*

*Mwynhauwch eich haf!*