



Gair y Ddraig

The Word of the Dragon

Chwefror, 2020
February, 2020

CALGARY WELSH
SOCIETY
FOUNDED: 1906

Officers:

President: Margaret Freedman

Vice-president: Tracy Burr

Secretary: Sandy Keating

Treasurer: Gwenda Raymond-Jones

Directors At Large:

Membership Sec.: Jean Kuhn

Jane Thomas

David Matthews

Past President: Elaine Westlake

Newsletter Editor and Website Manager: David Matthews

GREETINGS FROM YOUR CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY BOARD

Annwyl Ffrindiau / Dear Calgary Welsh Society Friends

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

The CWS board and I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Now that we are over our record breaking cold spell, we can all get out and about again.

The CWS Christmas Brunch was a great success with a full house and great food and wonderful entertainment. The singers, Jane Davies, Dawson Becker, Allysha Nolasco, Molly Allan and Isla Landry brought and accompanied by Laura Styler, were outstanding. Many thanks to them all. The rest of the programme was also enjoyed by everyone.

The CWS will be holding several events this year. You will find details in this newsletter. Members are encouraged to attend and to bring family and friends. Please mark these dates down on your calendars.

The first event of the year is our St. David's Day lunch at the Calgary Winter Club on March 7th. Entertainment will be provided by the much renowned *Calgary Boy's Choir*. Having attended one of their concerts, I can highly recommend them! Remember tickets **MUST** be bought in advance, by the deadline provided. No one can be accommodated after the deadline date, and no one will be accepted at the door who is not on the CWS advance 'booking list'. This is because the final number of people attending must be given to the Winter Club in advance. So please contact Jean Kuhn as soon as possible.

Calgary Welsh Society membership fees are now due. A small increase in annual membership fees was approved by CWS members at the 2019 Christmas Brunch. Details can be found in this newsletter.

The time has come for members to consider applying for funding to attend the *North American Festival of Wales* in the beautiful city of Philadelphia. The festival will be held at the downtown DoubleTree City Centre hotel from September 3rd to September 6th 2020.

Thankyou to all who participated in our CWS events this past year. Your support is much appreciated and has continued to make the society strong and healthy.

If you have a story, article or have information that you might like to share in the newsletter or if you wish to contact the Board, please send to thecalgarywelshsociety@gmail.com

On behalf of the Board

Margaret Freedman

WALES HITS TOP 10 FOR WORLD HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS!

IT'S SOMETHING THAT US WELSH have always known - we live in a stunning country. And now it seems the thousands of visitors who flock to our homeland each year agree with us as they've voted it one of the most beautiful countries in the world for 2019. The top 20 countdown for expert travel publication, *Rough Guides*, places Wales at number 10, ahead of countries like Finland, Switzerland and Norway, which are renowned for their gorgeous vistas.

Wales has just been voted one of the most beautiful countries in the world for 2019 by *Rough Guides*. **Rough Guides** asked travellers to vote for the countries they believe to be the most beautiful and there was plenty of praise for Wales.

The guide says of Wales: "There's a lot of love for this country among our readers – and many of us have nostalgic memories of summer holidays along the coast of Wales.



Waterfall on Monkash beach in Glamorgan,



"With beaches that could rival the Mediterranean (on sunny days at least), plus a slew of historic castles, mountains to climb, coast paths to walk, and of course, buttered Welshcakes to eat, there's a host of entertaining ways to spend your days.

"Twitter user @Dylan1969 recommends visiting for the castles and history, while we think a walk along the **Pembrokeshire coastline** followed by a hearty lunch in a cosy, coastal pub is quite hard to beat."

For those who love mountains and national parks, **SNOWDONIA** has to be one of the best places in the world to visit. The park's historic Snowdon Mountain Railway climbs to the summit of Wales' highest mountain, **Mount Snowdon**, offering the best panoramic views as far as Ireland. The park is also home to an extensive network of trails, more than 100 lakes and craggy peaks like Cader Idris and Tryfan.

Wales is, of course, renowned for its castles and among some of the best you can visit are Cardiff Castle, Caerphilly Castle and Caernarfon. As well as enjoying their history, the bigger castles have a year-round programme of events, including music gigs, festivals, re-enactments and even film screenings.

[Thanks to *WalesOnline*]

CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY EVENTS FOR 2020

- February 15th or 16th Possibility of Recital by visiting pianist and French Horn player
Information will be forthcoming if confirmation of recital is confirmed
- February ASAP CWS membership fees due for year Jan.1st, 2020 to Dec.31st, 2020
Payable to Jean Kuhn, membership secretary.
- March 2nd Deadline for purchase of St David Day Tickets
Cheque payable to Calgary Welsh Society, mail to Jean Kuhn
- March 7th St David's Day Lunch at Calgary Winter Club
Entertainment: Calgary Boys' Choir and much more...
- April [TBA] AGM and Tea
- May 8th Spring Is Singing concert
Emmanuel Reform Church, Calgary
- June 27th Cor Cymru Gogledd America / North American Welsh Choir
Grace Presbyterian Church, Calgary
- July [TBA] CWS picnic
- September 3rd – 6th North American Festival of Wales in Philadelphia, PA
Look for information & application to attend with this newsletter
- September [TBA] CWS Tea and entertainment
- October [TBA] Noson Lawen
- December 6th Christmas Brunch at the Royal Hotel Calgary, (Former Executive Royal Hotel)

UPCOMING EVENT FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

DYDD DEWI SANT / ST. DAVID'S DAY DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH

DOORS OPEN AT 11:30AM FOR A NOON START

ENTERTAINMENT: CALGARY BOYS' CHOIR; TOAST TO ST. DAVID;
COUNTY CALL; and more..

ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY MARCH 2ND.
PLEASE SEND CHEQUES, PAYABLE TO *CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY*,
TO: JEAN KUHN, BOX 11, TURNER VALLEY, ALBERTA, T0L 2A0
Ticket costs: Members \$50; Guests \$55; Children 4-10yrs \$25; Children under 4 - \$12-15

STANLEY JOHN HUGHES – A GREAT WELSH-CANADIAN!

STANLEY JOHN HUGHES was born on September 17, 1918 in Llanelli, Wales. His multilingual father worked in a shipping office and Welsh was spoken in their home. Stan attended the local County school and went on to the University of Wales Aberystwyth. After achieving his master's degree in Cardiff, he worked at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute in London (Kew), continuing to publish papers until he had enough to submit as a Doctoral thesis. Along the way, he became an expert in certain fungi and moulds and introduced a new system of classification of fungi which continues to aid scientists in the field.

In 1952, Stan was invited to come to Canada to continue his work with particular fungi that were of interest to Canadian scientists at Agriculture Canada's Experimental Farm. Being young and single, he thought of it as a great adventure, and, leaving behind his brother and parents, he headed to Canada.



Stan and his wife Lyndell, who he met in Ottawa, raised three children: Robbie, who died tragically at age 50, and Glenys (Metcalf, ON) and David (Toronto, ON). Stan's garage became a "man cave" for Stan and his collections.

The Hughes became involved in the Ottawa Welsh Society around 1960. They often attended such events as the St. David's Day reception at the BHC and the luncheon at the ROGC, happily chatting with anyone and everyone.

Some years ago, Stan offered his fungi collection and his books on the subject to the library at the National Botanic Garden of Wales in Llanarthney, Carmarthenshire. He presided over the opening of the library in 2009. He felt that having received a free education, he owed his homeland a debt.

In 2010, Stan was awarded the Order of Canada for "his life time contribution to the field of mycology. Other awards include the Jakob Eriksson Gold Medal of the Swedish Academy of Science (1969) and the George Lawson Medal of the Canadian Botanical Association (1981).

Stan went back to Wales numerous times, but was happy living in Canada. Stan also collected lapel pins; cataloguing, classifying and installing them in binders. Of course, the best lapel pin, *The Order of Canada* pin, was kept in its own box in a safe place, along with the medal itself.



Sadly, Stan, born on September 17th, 1918, passed away on November 7th, 2019 in his 102nd year. The last paragraph of his obituary sums up this man's life: 'Stan found meaning in the beauty and order of nature. He was a passionate collector and classifier, and an environmentalist before it became a necessity. He enriched family conversations by recalling salient Welsh proverbs and the poetry of Wordsworth and Longfellow. Stan found meaning in the beauty and order of nature. The world fascinated Stan and we will miss his searching mind. His quick wit was second to none. He was a consummate gentleman, kind father and loving husband.

Thank you to friends Alma and Wylie Norman in Ottawa and Gwenda Raymond Jones, Calgary Welsh Society's Treasurer and the Ottawa Welsh Society for making this information available.

[Submitted by Jane Thomas]

CWS DONATIONS TO CHARITIES

HAVING AGLC ‘CASINO’ FUNDS allows the Calgary Welsh Society to donate to worthy charities in Calgary. The following is a list of the charities selected by the CWS board as well as the amounts donated:

<i>Sick Kids Foundation</i>	\$500	<i>Studio Bell</i>	\$1500
<i>E P Scarlett School</i>	\$2000	<i>Calgary Boys Choir</i>	\$2000
<i>Veterans Food Bank</i>	\$5000	<i>Central Library</i>	\$2000
<i>Girls Rugby Tournament</i>	\$1500		

THE CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY HOSTS: Côr Cymru Gogledd America – The Welsh North American Choir

GREAT NEWS! This choir, which shared the stage with *The Three Welsh Tenors* at last year’s NAFOW in Milwaukee, is coming to perform in Calgary on June 27th, this year.

They will be arriving in Calgary on June 22nd, spending a few days in Banff and lake Louise before coming to Calgary on the Wednesday.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! SPREAD THE WORD!!

WANTED: HELP TO ORGANIZE ‘THE RAISING OF THE RED DRAGON’ CEREMONY ON ST. DAVID’S DAY

FOR MANY YEARS, CWS member Kathleen Johnson has organized the raising of the Welsh Flag at Calgary’s City Hall held on March 1st.

Kathleen is offering to train someone this year to take over this organization process. The person would, this year, follow Kathleen through this process which is not complicated and which has always been supported by CWS board members and singers such as Diane Williams and Laura Styler.

Please, would somebody step up and ensure that this ceremony continues??



YMA O HYD – Margaret Kuyt

by Brian Lewis

MANY PEOPLE WILL RECALL the clear, distinctive voice of Margaret Kuyt who was a member for more than thirty years and who, for most of that time, was on the phone committee. Her training as a speech therapist in London meant there was never any doubt about the details of upcoming events when she phoned CWS members.

Unfortunately, in her ninetieth year, due to ill health and the inability to drive anymore, she has ceased to be an active member. She now lives in a senior's residence at Valley Ridge Lodge.

Margaret married a Dutchman in the UK in 1954. With so many ex-military people still out of work after the war, emigration seemed the best bet for employment. She and her husband came to Ontario in 1955 where her husband had a cousin, then in July moved to Calgary right in the middle of Stampede Week. Margaret soon found work with victims of cerebral palsy while her husband joined the Mannix Corporation. When asked what she missed most about Wales Margaret replied, "The rain. I loved walking in the rain!" Most people who leave Wales (or Holland) are happy to be away from the rain!!

It wasn't until 1974 while working at the hospital that Margaret learned about the Calgary Welsh Society from a physiotherapist. She was from Aberdare only four miles away from Hirwaun where Margaret grew up. Among the first people she got to know on the Welsh Society were Bill and Morfudd Jones. Bill was the president of the Society and working at SAIT at that time and Morfudd was well established in the city as a nurse by then.

Although Margaret was one of the main communicators in CWS for so long, the pressure of work and family life forced her to restrict her participation to the main events like *St. David's Day* and the *Christmas Brunch*. She has one important observation to make about this experience. It was natural for friends to seek out each other's company on these special occasions. But it was often uncomfortable for those



Margaret receiving recognition for long-term membership in CWS



Margaret with friend Kathleen at a St David's Day dinner.

who were new or who came alone. It seemed 'exclusive' and some members decided not to return after one or two events. She believes the Society has become stronger over the past decade because there's been more 'CROESO'. To illustrate her point: she's already had a visitor by a Board member in her new residence. Members now seem to be reaching out to each other more.

Over her ninety years (she was born on January 26th, 1930) Margaret has developed some strong opinions. One of them concerns young people, especially young women in the media. They speak too fast. They have poor delivery. They're so intent on expressing themselves and their opinions, likes and dislikes, they forget the most important thing: language is about communication. It's not a "screeching" solo performance. How's that for a strong opinion!!

Happy Ninetieth, Margaret. Stay strong!!

A GREAT GATHERING OF OVER 90 MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY ENJOYED THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

After a wonderful brunch, people were entertained by Barbara Morris [who had the crowd making all kinds of Christmas sounds], followed by students of Laura Styler's 'Noted Music Studio' who sang some beautiful songs. The singers were, in order of performance, Allysha Nolasco, Molly Allan, Isla Landry, Dawson Becker and Jane Davies.

Elaine Westlake and Laura Styler led the crowd in some good ol' carol singing.

Kudos go to the hard work of the CWS board and the cooks of the delicious brunch!



YOU ARE INVITED!!

**North American Festival of Wales
September 3 – September 6, 2020
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (DoubleTree by Hilton Centre City)**

We invite you as Calgary Welsh Society members to apply for funding to attend!

The Welsh North American Association (www.nafow.org) proudly presents the annual North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW). This cultural experience includes events designed to stimulate interest in Wales and help maintain its culture and heritage. They include musical performances, seminars, language instruction, tours, informal singing, Noson Lawen evenings, displays and demonstrations as well as an opening concert and a grand concert. Many of the performers and presenters are brought over from Wales. Festival headquarters this year will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Center City hotel, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Room cost will be \$129 + taxes USD per night. Rooms can be reserved now and registration information will be available in February, 2020 at www.nafow.org.

Application Information and Process

To be eligible to apply you need to have been an **active** member of the Calgary Welsh Society for at least two (2) years. Applicants will NOT be eligible for funding in consecutive years. You may only apply for funding to attend either NAFOW or CWRs CYMRAEG every two years. ALL applicants for NAFOW must be **paid up members** of CWS as of February 15, 2020. One family application will be granted per awards year if eligible. Depending on the number of applications received, the selection committee may select only one person per family. In any circumstances, no more than two people per family will qualify for assistance. All applicants over 18 years of age need to submit a separate application from other family members. Applications will be placed in order of merit by an impartial selection committee. Priority will be given to members who have not previously been approved for funding. Up to eight successful applicants to NAFOW will receive financial support, the amount yet to be determined. Reimbursement of costs up to the maximum amounts will be made on presentation of eligible receipts to the CWS treasurer after completion of the events, and upon submission of a detailed, written report of no less than 500 words about your experiences, including seminars attended, concerts, banquets and musical events.

The Calgary Welsh Society Executive hopes that members will take advantage of the opportunity to attend the North American Festival of Wales. We will be applying to the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission to allow us to use casino funds to sponsor some members to attend these events as detailed above. Names of successful candidates will have to be included in our application to AGLC for funding, hence the need for the early submission of your applications. Funding from the CWS is dependant on approval by AGLC.

Please send completed application form/s to CWS president: *Margaret Freedman, 21 Douglasbank Gardens SE, Calgary, AB T2Z 2C9* email: m.freedman@shaw.ca

Applications must be received by Margaret no later than February 29th. All applications submitted by email will be acknowledged – if you do not receive confirmation please contact Margaret. If mailing please let Margaret know you have done so. We hope to inform each candidate of the selection committee decision by March 15, 2020. NB All successful candidates will be required to give a written account of their experience to the Calgary Welsh Society after their attendance at NAFOW. If you are interested in applying for funding, please complete and submit the application form included in this mailing.