



# Gair y Ddraig

*The Word of the Dragon*

Ebrill, 2022  
April, 2022

CALGARY  
WELSH SOCIETY  
FOUNDED: 1906

## Officers:

*President: Margaret Freedman*

*Vice-president: Tracy Burr*

*Secretary: Sandy Keating*

*Treasurer: Gwenda Raymond-Jones*

*Newsletter Editor and Website Manager: David Matthews*

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*Membership Sec.: Jean Kuhn*

*Jane Thomas*

*David Matthews*

*Past President: Elaine Westlake*

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY BOARD.

**Annwyl Frindiau, Dear Friends.**

We hope you are all keeping well! It is hard to believe that it is now 2 years since the pandemic began. We have certainly missed our gatherings and seeing you all. While we have enjoyed our telephone chats with you, it isn't the same as getting together and enjoying the spirit, the harmony of 'togetherness'.

Now that some covid restrictions are being lifted and most of us have had at least three covid shots, there is an air of optimism that in-person events will soon take place.

Indeed, a casino has been scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking to fill some spots at this event which, ultimately, funds the society. Our AGM, an in-person gathering, will be held a little later in May on May 28<sup>th</sup>. *Cor Cymry Gogledd America*, the *North America Welsh Choir* will be here in June and our annual picnic is tentatively scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Thanks once again to David for continuing in its production and editing. He wants to thank all of you who have contributed articles and ideas. Please continue to send your contributions.

On Behalf of the Board

*Margaret Freedman* (President)



## A Flashback to our society in 1935.

Note that 'the response to oldtimers' was made by R. C. Thomas, a Welsh entrepreneur who arrived in Alberta in the late 1800s.

The menu begins with cawl, while the main meal consisted of roast turkey, green olives, crowberries, 'red' carrots, green peas, and [we think] mashed potatoes [*'Cloron Mwydio-naidd'*,] followed by dessert, cake and 'frozen cream'-ice-cream??. and butter rolls, tea or coffee.

The entertainment of the day was music, music, music!!



Cymdeithas Dewi Sant, Calgary, Alberta



Calgary  
St. David's  
Society

PROGRAMME

Nos. Wener  
1 Mawrth  
1935

Eryri! temple of the bard!  
Ard fortress of the free!  
Might rocks which heroes died to guard!  
Their spirit dwell with these poems!

Elizabethan Rooms  
(Hudson's Bay Company)  
Calgary, Alberta

### TOAST LIST

Chairman - W. Thomas, Esq., President.

TOAST "THE KING" The Chairman  
"God Save the King"

TOAST "WALES"  
"Hen Wlad Fy Nhadu"  
Solo part by E. Ellis Jones, Esq.

Proposed by the Venerable Archdeacon Swanson.  
Response by Rev. R. H. Williams

QUARTET "MYFANWY" Messrs. Rhys,  
Arthur, Jones and Roberts

TOAST "CANADA"  
"O Canada"

Proposed by Dr. W. A. Lincoln  
Response by I. F. Fitch, Esq.

SOLO "The Rising of the Lark" Enid Jones

TOAST "THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH"  
Proposed by G. A. Guthrie, Esq.

SOLO "Y Milwyr Clwysedig" Capt. W. Edwards  
Response—Col. D. G. L. Cunningham, M.C.

QUARTET "Dafydd y Gareg Wen"

TOAST "THE OLD TIMERS"  
Proposed by V. R. Jones, Esq.  
Response by R. C. Thomas, Esq.

SOLO "Banner Ein Gwlad" Edgar Rhys, Esq.

### COMMUNITY SINGING

Accompanists - - G. Lloyd Roberts, Esq.  
C. Murgatroyd, Esq.

### "RHAGLEN"

Cawl

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Bwdlysiau Olifaid Gwyrdd

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Twrci Rhostiedig

---

Cryglys Moron Cochion

---

Pysenau Gwyrdd Cloron Mwydionaid

---

Hyfen Rhewedig a Theisen

---

Rholiau ac Ymenyn

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Te Coffi

## NAFOW - OFF - SEASON

**THE ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES (NAFOW)** was one casualty of COVID. The festival was cancelled in 2020 and was moved from Ottawa to Utica, New York in the spring of 2021 when it became obvious that Americans wouldn't be able to travel to Canada.

In late 2021 Dr Megan Williams, executive secretary of Welsh North American Association (WNAA), the group who produces NAFOW annually, and a small group of WNAA Board members discussed the possibility of doing a monthly online NAFOW presentation - and 'NAFOW-OFF-Season' came into being.

To date we have had 3 very successful monthly presentations:

### January 2022

Renowned Love Spoon carver, Dave Western of Vancouver, BC was our presenter. On your computer go to [lovespoons@shaw.ca](mailto:lovespoons@shaw.ca) and see his beautiful work!

Dave talked to us about the history of the Love Spoon and the styles adopted in other countries like Germany, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries. The best known love spoons originate in Wales with the oldest recorded spoon dating back to 1667. Spoons were usually carved for romantic reasons where young men could 'test the waters' of a courtship and demonstrate their ability as craftsmen.



### February 2022

The Puget Sound Welsh Society under the expert guidance of 'temporary Chef' Chris Mooredrall guided us through a cooking class where we made *Cawl Cennin* (leek soup) that we adapted to The Best Leek and Potato Soup. Check out the recipe on page 5.

### March 2022

March is Women's History Month in the USA, UK and Australia. To help celebrate, a group from the US called 'Heddwch Nain' (Grandma's Peace) put together a presentation showcasing the original story. After the first World War ended the League of Nations was formed with the purpose of maintaining peace and avoiding war. In 1924 three Welsh women, Annie Hughes Griffiths, Elined Prys and Mary Ellis, the Peace Delegates, travelled to the US to further their cause and met President Coolidge.

## Coming up on NAFOW-OFF-SEASON~

- April 24, 2022, 6pm EST:

A Reading from 'Carwyn', a new play written by Owen Thomas, directed by Gareth John Bale and performed by Simon Nehan.

'Carwyn' is a new play about Carwyn James, who, to this day, remains the only coach to mastermind a series victory for the British Lions against the All-Blacks. The play will unravel the enigma of a multi-layered man, a man ahead of his time.

Carwyn James died alone in an Amsterdam hotel room in 1983. This play returns to that room and allows this unique man to have one final opportunity to look back over his short but eventful life. A life in which the beauty of the words of the ancient poets and playwrights were as important to him as the ebb and flow of the rugby ball.

# THE BRECON BEACONS, SHIPS AND CELEBRATIONS

Ann Williams

THE BRECON BEACONS ARE SAID TO BE NAMED for the beacons lit on its hill tops to warn of approaching English raiders, and Beacon Hills up and down England and Wales owe their names to their use as sites for news-bearing beacons of years past. These beacons took the form of either a bonfire (a tall pile of flammable materials) or, if additional height was needed, a fire basket mounted on a pole.



On first sighting the 130 ships of the 1588 Spanish Armada off the coast of Cornwall, a beacon, was lit – when the fire was seen from the site of the next beacon to the east, that too was lit and so on along the south coast to Beachy Head in Sussex where the route turned north to London and the rest of Britain. Supposedly it took 12 hours for the news of the approaching Armada to reach York. Of course, these lit beacons along the coast would also have been seen by the men on the ships of the Armada but, as we all know, not a single Spanish ship landed on British soil.

A more recent use of beacons was to celebrate the 1981 marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. On the evening before the wedding, in London's Hyde Park, Prince Charles lit the first of a chain of 101 beacons. I was staying with my brother and his family in Somerset at the time and from their attic windows two blazing bonfires could be seen in the darkness, one to the east and one to the west – it did make one feel part of a national celebration.

*The next use of beacons is planned for June 2, 2022*, which my Coronation Mug confirms is the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Her reign actually began in February of 1952 when her father died. So on the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her Coronation, it is hoped that a chain of more than 1,500 beacons will be lit to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



## LEEK AND POTATO SOUP - CAWL CENNIN A TATWS

### **Ingredients for Leek and Potato Soup:**

- *3-5 potatoes* (Yukon Gold suggested; yellow potatoes not red) Peel and dice potatoes into half in cubes. Set aside in cold water
- *8 cups of vegetable broth* ( or other broth according to preference)
- *3 large leeks* (chopped finely including green parts after trimming off brown parts) Soak in cold water to remove dirt
- *5(or more) thick strips bacon*. Fry gently without oil, then crumble
- *2 cloves garlic*. Crushed
- *3 bay leaves*. Remove before serving or pulsing
- *2 sprigs fresh thyme or 1 tablespoon dried*
- *salt and pepper to taste*. Remember to taste before adding
- *1 cup heavy cream*. Your choice of whipping cream, 18% cream or other

### **Method**

Measure 8 cups broth into a large pot. Add diced potatoes and chopped leeks. Bring to a boil. Add bay leaves, garlic, thyme and crumbled bacon. Boil together for about 20 minutes. Add salt and or pepper as needed. Add cream last and bring back to a boil for a few minutes. Serve ‘as is’ or pulse briefly in a food processor so it’s no longer lumpy (my preference is pulsed and smooth soup).

### **Cymdeithas Madog host their second Cwrs Rhith.**

CWMDEITHAS MADOG hosted their second *Cwrs Rhith*, a virtual winter course, on January 21-23. Participants were taught in three levels, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Lessons were supplemented by an interesting talk by Gabe Rochelle, our newest Board member, on notable Welsh female saints, including Saint Dwynwen.

**The upcoming summer course in July will again be virtual. Until then, speakers can join our Siop Siarad’, an informal chat group that takes place once a month. To sign up, check out the SpeakWelsh.org website.**

## **CONDOLENCES**

Sincerest condolences to the family and friends of members **TONY JONES** and **DAVID GASKIN** who passed away recently.

Condolences also to Board member **JEAN KUHN** whose son **ALAN** died earlier in **MARCH**. They will all be missed.

## **Roy and Rene Bracegirdle, Former Calgary Welsh Society Members**



The Calgary Welsh Society (CWS) is remembering Roy and Elsie (or “Rene” as the Calgary Welsh Society knew her) Bracegirdle. Roy passed away peacefully in his sleep on 5 January 2022.

Roy was ready to go home and announced that he was tired and just wanted to be with his Elsie who preceded him on 6 January 2018. She was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, the youngest of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bateson. Roy and Elsie were proud parents of six children, and beloved grandparents of eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Roy was born in Liverpool, England, the son of entertainers; he and Elsie were married in 1946. They continued the tradition of entertaining in the North of England and then in both Canada and the United States after immigrating to Canada in 1967. They were well known in Calgary as part of Storybook Theatre, The Welsh Society Choir, The Silver Stars and numerous other production companies.

Roy was a big supporter of the Liverpool football club and rugby league especially Bradford Northern. Roy was also a renowned local and UK photographer until his passing. Former CWS Committee Members Trish Coulson, Viv Ellis and Ross Hicks provide some rich memories: Viv Ellis remembers that Roy and Rene were part of the Calgary Welsh Society’s local choir that sang in seniors’ homes in Calgary. Viv recalls that they were pleasant to work with, always willing to lend a hand with anything. And Ross Hicks points out their busy performance careers. Trish Coulson recalls that Roy, also a baker by trade, made a special Christmas cake every year for the Coulson’s and some of his neighbours. Trish remembers getting together with Rene at their new neighbourhood Zellers. And she fondly remembers Rene’s beautiful voice. Trish also recalls that the Bracegirdle’s started in Vaudeville but couldn’t find enough audience interest in Calgary to pursue their love for vaudeville.

They enjoyed branching out to other forms of theatre and entertainment including pantomime performances. One year for Poems and Pints night, the Welsh Society attended the pantomime, which was hilarious and “even our children had a great time. Except for the kids not understanding the ‘blue’ jokes!”

*Sources: Calgary Welsh Society and Calgary Herald Notices. Compiled by Jane Thomas*

# Calgary Welsh Society Member Spotlight: *Della Lewis*

Interviewed by Michelle Henderson

A MEMBER OF THE CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY FOR MANY YEARS, Della Lewis has embraced the Welsh culture, although she is not of Welsh descent! Her husband Brian, from Thomastown in Rhondda Cynon Taf, is Della's connection to Wales.

Della was born in Saskatchewan, the granddaughter of German and Romanian immigrants. In 1944, the family moved to a small village where they were ostracized for speaking German. Della's father was a welder in a blacksmith shop, and they relocated to Quesnel, BC when crop failures and other hardships prevented the Saskatchewan farmers from being able to pay for welding/blacksmithing services. Della says it was quite the culture



to move from a village of 500 to a town of 5,000! Della was teased at school and wanted to fit in with the other kids, so she babysat extensively so she could buy some 'fashionable' clothes.

After high school, Della went to UBC and did a 2-year teacher certification program. Her first job was replacing a woman on maternity leave, at the grade 3 level. While Della taught elementary school, her brother was a high school teacher who became friends with a young Welshman named Brian Lewis. He would often join Della's family for dinner. As she describes it, it was "love at first sight".

Della and Brian were married in August 1963 and moved to Cape Dorset on Baffin Island, NWT (now Nunavut) where Brian had secured a teaching job. Before long, Della was also working as a teacher. During their four years in Cape Dorset they welcomed their first two children. Their next adventure took them to Toronto, where Brian pursued his M.A., and two more children arrived to complete their family. Della was very occupied with four young ones at home.

In 1972, the family moved to Fort Smith, NWT where Brian became the principal of a First Nations teacher training program. Two years later, they moved to Yellowknife. Della became very involved with the artists' guild, beginning with weaving and then pottery. She also extended her volunteer work by sitting on various boards. In 1977, when their youngest child began kindergarten, Della went back to work part-time with adults with challenging needs. She set up a ceramic studio and assisted in creating a job-placement program for the adults. It was very satisfying for Della to watch the program's development and success over an 18-year period.

In 1995, both Della and Brian retired. They decided to move to Calgary several years later as it was "en route" between Yellowknife and Wales, where Brian's parents lived. They determined that living in Calgary would make it much easier to travel to and from Wales! It didn't take Della long to become involved in the North Mount Pleasant Arts Centre, an organization to which she still actively contributes. Not only has she created many pieces of beautiful pottery, but she has organized volunteers for two potters' sales each year.



Brian and Della made many trips to Wales through the years, and Della says their children wholeheartedly embraced their Welsh heritage. Watching their children's delight as they experienced Welsh life and culture....listening to musicians in a Pontypridd park, visiting old churches, exploring



castles, going to amusement parks on the beach.....resulted in many special, fond memories. Having free babysitting also helped....leaving the kids with their grandparents allowed Della and Brian to explore pottery and weaving studios and local antique shops, and their Calgary home has many treasures brought back through the years. Their children also have a lot of "Welshness" in their homes.

What impresses Della most about the Welsh people is their pride in and devotion to their history and culture. ("They are SO proud!", she says.) Della has enjoyed many St. David's Day celebrations in various cities, sewed Welsh costumes for special events, and hosted many St. David's Day potluck celebrations. She has also watched rugby fans support their team, enjoyed Welsh poetry and music, learned some Welsh cooking, and appreciated the Welsh sense of humour. Her example: the only two rugby teams the Welsh support are Wales and the team playing against England!

Della and Brian were eager to join the Calgary Welsh Society when they arrived in Calgary in the late '90s, but were told it no longer existed. It was Kit Duckett who met Brian at the Confederation Choir who informed him about the Society. At their first dinner, they met Elaine Westlake and soon discovered that Elaine and Brian's brother Graham had gone to school together in Wales! Small world!

Della has contributed greatly to the ongoing success of the Calgary Welsh Society. She became interested in its history after speaking with Pam Hicks and other members. She then decided to begin scanning and preserving historical documents as she learned more about the society, established in 1906. This archiving project is something that Della is still involved in. She coordinated all the volunteers for NAFOW in 2016, a mammoth task as some days needed as many as 70 people! Having so many committed and helpful volunteers made Calgary's NAFOW a great success, and people commented that it was so welcoming of everyone. We are thankful to Della and the rest of the organizing committee for their amazing NAFOW work.

These days Della fills her time by researching her family genealogy, and she continues to be an active member of the Mount Pleasant Potters Guild and the Calgary Welsh Society. Thank you, Della, for your warmth and spirit, and for helping to make many lives happier along the way!

.....

In honour and support of our Ukrainian friends



## History of the Australian state of New South Wales

NEW SOUTH WALES STANDS AS THE FIRST STATE OF AUSTRALIA, boasting the site of the First Fleet's landing in 1788. With a strong colonial heritage, New South Wales has also been greatly influenced by waves of immigration since the post-war era began. The state is arguably Australia's most influential region when it comes to finance, commerce and tourism.

Even before Captain Cook sailed the coastline in 1770, New South Wales was inhabited by hundreds of different indigenous Australian tribes. For around 40,000 to 50,000 years, native Australians lived off the land and experienced a relatively unchanged culture. However, this all changed with the landing of the First Fleet in 1788.

The north-east coast of the land mass now known as Australia, was sighted by the Yorkshireman, Lieutenant Cook when he was acting as captain of the HMS Endeavour. The land mass had been named New Holland by its Dutch discoverers, and though they had mapped most of the shoreline, they didn't colonise it.



The name 'New South Wales' came about after Captain Cook likened a series of coastal cliffs with similar geographical landforms off the southern coasts of Wales. Therefore, New South Wales became the title for Britain's newest southern colony. However, it wasn't settled until 18 years later, when Captain Arthur Phillip led a fleet of ships to settle the colony. Originally, the fleet landed in Botany Bay, on Sydney's southern shores. However, due to lack of suitable water sources and food, the settlement moved slightly north, into what is today known as Sydney Cove. The original settlement quickly spread up the Parramatta and Hawkesbury rivers in the late 18th century, but failed to encompass land further west of the

Blue Mountains, which were deemed impassable.

In search of new grazing and agricultural land, explorers finally passed the Great Dividing Range and Blue Mountains in 1815. This led to the development of new agricultural towns like Bathurst. Further growth of inland New South Wales was experienced during the Gold Rush era of the mid-19th century. Nevertheless, this event was much more influential in Victoria, just to the south.

At the time of Federation (turn of the 20th century) New South Wales was earmarked to provide Australia's new capital city, with Sydney or Albury the frontrunners. However, tensions with Victoria led to the creation of the Australian Capital Territory, and the national capital was handed to Canberra. The New South Wales government ceded land for the development of the ACT. Today, New South Wales is among the Asia-Pacific's strongest economies.

Like much of Australia, New South Wales doesn't have a single, identifiable culture. Due to the influx of migrants over the last 60 years, the state boasts an exciting multicultural landscape. In areas around Sydney there are plenty of districts that are dominated by one or two nationalities. Outside the capital city, New South Wales is still a mix of cultures, although diasporas are harder to find.

Sport is an extremely important part of the state culture. Football usually refers to Rugby League, and sometimes Rugby Union. However, in Australia soccer is the name of the global game, 'football'. During the cooler months, there is a rugby league match played somewhere in the state every week. Towards the southern reaches of New South Wales, Australian Rules football becomes more prevalent.

(Information from "i-Explore")

Submitted by Margaret Hunziker

## North American Festival of Wales

August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup> , 2022

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](http://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 is available at [nafow.org](http://nafow.org).

### **Application Information and Process**

To be eligible to apply you need to have been an active member [before Covid] 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 this year, 2022. 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](mailto:m.freedman@shaw.ca) Applications must be received by Margaret no later than April 30th. 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 as soon as available. 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 on the other side of this paper in its entirety.

# Application for Assistance to Attend 'NAFOW 2022, in Philadelphia, PA

Please read the NAFOW Application Information above before completing this form.

\*Please complete and submit by April 30<sup>th</sup> \*

[PRINT] Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you been a member of the Calgary Welsh Society? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you received funding to attend NAFOW in the past? YES NO

a. What year(s) did you receive funding? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you attended NAFOW without funding? YES NO

4. Are you a CWS board member or related to one? YES NO

5. Please indicate below why you wish to attend NAFOW 2022:

6. In what ways have you helped CWS in the past?

7. In what ways will your attendance at the event benefit our society and what contributions will you make to the Calgary Welsh Society as a result of attending this event?

8. Any other comments you would like to make e.g. about events attended or suggestions?

After the event, the following must be submitted before eligible expenses will be reimbursed:

- 1. all original eligible receipts (eg accommodation, food, registration, airfare)
- 2. A detailed written report of no less than 500 words outlining events/workshops attended including a personal evaluation. This report may be shared with members through our newsletter or through an oral report given at a Noson Llawen. Successful applicants will be expected to make their own travel arrangements. However, assistance required to make such arrangements will be available.

## DID YOU KNOW???. . . . .this about *THE KING AND I*

THAT THE 'I' IN *THE KING AND I* WAS A WELSH WOMAN? She was born in Carnarvon in 1834. Her father, Captain Crawford was sent to India accompanied by his wife. Anna was left in the care of a relative, Mrs. Walpole who conducted a school for girls. Anna was only six. A year later she learned her father had been killed. She was not able to join her mother who had remarried until she was fifteen.

India was a shock to her system after the sheltered life she had led in Wales. Very soon at a sumptuous dinner she was horrified at the contrast between the privileged officers and the many servants who quietly responded to their every need. She reflected on colonialism as it must have been for the Welsh since the days of Edward the First. Carnarvon had been a symbol of English conquest.

In Bombay Anna fell in love with Major Thomas Leonowens. When she left with her mother for Poona where her father was stationed, she agreed to stay in touch with the young officer. Unfortunately, the step-father had other plans for her.

By now Anna had become a strong independent thinker. To get away from the domineering step-father her mother arranged for her to travel with some friends, the Badgers. The Rev. Badgers was an Arabic scholar and with his help she immersed herself in the languages and cultures of the Middle East.

After a year she'd made up her mind to marry Major Leonowens despite her step-father's strong opposition. After her marriage in 1851 she never spoke to him again.

The travelling continued. In 1856 Anne's husband was ordered to Singapore. Soon tragedy struck when her mother died. Then her husband died as a result of a hunting accident. She was left alone with two children to look after. Many Indian banks had failed and she'd nothing to live on. Her step-father had cut her off from any form of inheritance—even the family homestead in Wales. She decided to open a school for the children of army officers. The officers loved the school but many neglected to pay their fees. She was desperate. She had to close up the school. Fortunately, she had built up a solid reputation in Singapore. There the Siamese Consul recommended to his King in Bangkok he hire her to teach his many wives and many children.

The letter the King wrote to Anna Leonowens is worth noting.

*To Mrs. A H Leonowens  
Madam:*

*We are in good pleasure, and satisfaction in heart, that you are in willingness to undertake the education of our beloved royal children. And we hope that in doing your education on our children...you will do your best endeavour for knowledge of English language, literature and science and not to conversion to Christianity.... We beg to invite you to our royal palace to do your best endeavours upon us and our children. We shall expect to see you her on return of Siamese steamer Chow Phya....*

*Believe me,  
Your faithfully  
S.S. P.P. Maha Mongkut*

Her years as the royal tutor were tumultuous. She insisted on telling the King the many injustices that needed to be corrected. She spent many hours with the King's son hoping to influence him as the future King of Siam. (Siam is present day Thailand)

**See "The King and I" with Deborah Kerr playing the role of Anna Leonowens and Yul Brynner as the King.**

Submitted by Brian Lewis

## NEWS FROM WALES

### ‘Extreme weather hits Wales as tornado ‘lifts lambs into the air’

Extreme **weather** has hit **Wales** as weather investigators confirm a **tornado** damaged trees and a farmhouse, even “lifting lambs into the air”. The forceful gales pulled up trees near the property in the Gwynedd village of Pennal, near Machynlleth, some of which were believed to be hundreds of years old.



### St. Fagan’s ‘open-air museum’

near Cardiff is rated as one of the best attractions in Wales. The museum tells the story of the people of Wales, looking at all periods of history from medieval to Victorian times. This is achieved by the removal and reconstruction of ancient buildings, their interiors and the lifestyle that existed during the time of their particular existence.

Entry to the museum is free.



### Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant by Brian Lewis

There's little more to say about Saint David's Day  
I think I've said it all.

Abstemious and selfless was our Patron Saint  
And welcomed in both hut and hall.

We're living in a Secular Age  
Few know what makes a saint.  
And those who doggedly engage  
In Faith, all seem a little quaint.



So why preserve the ancient rites  
To honour a saint long dead?  
It's because there's no one since St. David  
We can honour and respect instead.

**YES! THE CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY IS BRINGING A CHOIR  
TO TOWN!**

***COR CYMRY GOGLEDD AMERICA***  
**‘THE NORTH AMERICAN WELSH CHOIR’**



**WHERE? GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**1009, 15 Ave. S.W. CALGARY**

**WHEN? SATURDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> 6:30pm. Doors open 5:45pm**

**ADMISSION? Seating on a first come, first served basis**

**FREE**

**SPREAD THE WORD: TELL FAMILY, FRIENDS, ET AL!!**

**MORE  
WANTED!!**

**CWS MEMBERS, FRIENDS FAMILY TO HELP  
OUT AT OUR CASINO ON MAY 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.**

OUR WORK AT THE CASINO PROVIDES FUNDS  
WITH WHICH WE CAN SUPPORT EVENTS SUCH AS THE UPCOMING  
CONCERT OR EVENTS SUCH AS *SPRING IS SINGING*. IT ALSO ALLOWS  
THE *CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY* TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORTHY  
CHARITIES!

**PLEASE CALL JULIEN @ 403-471-6954 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

**Madame Ellis Browne, R.A.M.**  
Teacher of Singing  
Pupil of Mme. Marchesi, Paris and London, Eng., Bronze and Silver Medalist Royal Academy of Music, London, Eng., Music Supervisor to Normal School, Calgary. Choir Director First Baptist Church.



Pupils prepared for Examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, London, Eng.  
Pupils coached for Oratorio and Operatic Work.

Studio: Gourlay Piano Parlors, 220 Twelfth Ave. W. Phone M2817  
Residence: "The Wigwam," Calgary. Phone M3373

**MADAME ELLIS BROWNE** was born **MARY ANN AMELIA ELLIS**, in Carmarthen, Wales, in 1866, and became one of Calgary's leading music figures from 1908 to 1936. Trained in the Royal Academy of Music, London, she became a leading contralto and teacher of voice.

She opened a business in Calgary as a 'Teacher of Singing'. Her studio was at 'Gourlay Piano Parlors' located on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She was the musical director of the First Baptist Church and an instructor at St Hilda's College. Such was her success that two of her best students received scholarships to study at the Royal College of Music in London.

She was also very involved with eisteddfodau and the Calgary Welsh Society which was then known as the St. David's Society.

Look in future newsletters for insights into some of tremendous work she did.

WELL, she was a Carmarthen girl, wasn't she!!!!

## Spring 2022 Rugby Six Nations and more... NORM PIERCE



WALES DID NOT DO SO WELL this year finishing second from last with only one win which was against Scotland. They lost by one point with the last kick of the match against Italy in their last game. Italy have now beaten Wales twice at the Millenium Stadium. The last time was in 2015. France won the Grand Slam for the first time in 12 years .

Wales won their first match in the Women' Six Nations rugby against Ireland. They also won their second narrowly defeating Scotland. Sadly, they were trounced by England now considered to be the best women's rugby national team in the world.

### Football

Wales are one victory away from ending their 64 year absence from the World Cup thanks to Bale scoring 2 goals against Austria March 24th. Before the game Dafydd Iwan led the crowd in a rendition of his song Yma o Hyd before the crowd sang the national anthem .

Aaron Ramsey, the Welsh captain, has been transferred to Glasgow Rangers from the Italian club Juventus.

AND GREAT NEWS, Canada has qualified to play in the World Cup.

In 1905 Wales played against the unbeaten New Zealand team at Cardiff Arms Park. To counteract the "HAKA" of New Zealand, Wales decided that they would sing the National Anthem, so with Teddy Morgan leading the strong crowd of 40000 they sang *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* and, from then on, the singing of the national anthem before games caught on. Wales beat New Zealand 3-0 that day.

**Can you figure out why English rugby player Billy Twelvetrees was nick-named "thirty six" by his Irish coach?**