



Gair y Ddraig

The Word of the Dragon

Tachwedd 2022
November 2022

CALGARY
WELSH SOCIETY
FOUNDED: 1906

Officers:

President: Margaret Freedman

Vice-president: Elaine Westlake

Secretary: Tracy Burr

Treasurer: John Hopkins

THE CWS BOARD

Directors At Large:

Membership Sec.: Jean Kuhn

Margaret Hunziker

David Matthews

Newsletter Editor and Website Manager: David Matthews

GREETINGS FROM YOUR CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY BOARD

Annwyl Frindiau, Dear Friends.

After a beautiful summer and fall, we recently have had a reminder that winter is here. We hope you, our society members, are all well and looking forward to the coming Christmas season

As things return to something like normal after covid, CWS has held several events. A successful A.G.M was held in May. The North American choir, *Cor Cymry Gogledd America*, visited in June, participating in an event at our Central Library and entertaining a crowd at Grace Presbyterian Church. Our annual picnic was held in July and a *Noson Lawen* was held in September. While participants were fewer than usual all who attended had an enjoyable time.

Our Annual Christmas Brunch will be held in December. Notices and information have gone out to members. We do hope you will join us on this occasion. **Payment for the Christmas Brunch must be paid in advance!** Payment will not be accepted by the door as in the past.

While membership payment was not required over the covid years, membership payment for the Calgary Welsh Society will be due in January 2023. There is a notice in this newsletter.

On Behalf of the Board

Margaret Freedman
(President)

SNOWDONIA

by Ann Williams

The Pen-y-Gwryd Hotel in Snowdonia has two claims to fame. The first (1853) is its mention in a poem written to an old friend by the Rev. Charles Kingsley (author of *The Water-Babies* and *Westward Ho!*). The poem begins:



There is no inn in Snowdon which is not awful dear
Excepting Pen-y-gwrydd (you can't pronounce it, dear)
Which standeth in the meeting of noble valleys three—
One is the vale of Gwynant, so well beloved by me
One goes to Capel-Curig, and I can't mind its name
And one it is Llanberris Pass, which all men knows the same.

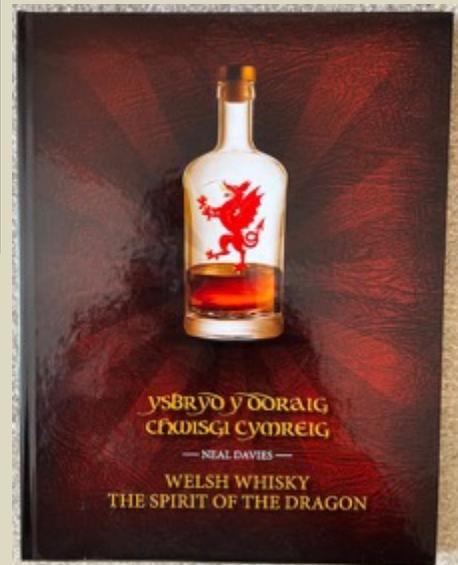
The hotel's second claim to fame (1953) comes from its use as a training base for the Everest Expedition which put two men on the summit of Mount Everest. Ten years later, expedition members gathered at the hotel when the two men who stood on the summit, Nepalese climber Tenzing Norgay and New Zealander, Sir Edmund Hillary [plus other members of the expedition] signed their names on the dining room ceiling. Over the years, original team members have given the hotel many photographs, pairs of boots and other memorabilia which are proudly displayed in the hotel's main bar and guest lounge.

YSBRYD Y DDRAIG – CHWISGI CYMREIG

by Neal Davies

A massive 'DIOLCH' to Dr. Neal Davies who has donated several copies of his book *WELSH WHISKY-THE SPIRIT OF THE DRAGON* to the CWS. This well-presented and beautifully illustrated book will take you on an interesting and historical journey with 'Welsh spirit'.

Dr. Davies will be giving a short talk on his venture later in November in an 'appropriate' setting. Members will receive an invitation to attend – details will be sent to all members in an email.



POETRY OF EDWARD ARTHUR HOPKINS

Submitted by John Hopkins

First Love

In the early 1920's my father's life took on a new dimension with the appearance upon the scene of the School Ma'am. He had a definite edge on the competition, for the School Ma'am had come to board at their house and, wonder of wonders, miracle of miracles, she definitely liked him! He experienced 'cloud nine' for the first time and floated through days of staggering labour feeling the world was a wonderful place and he was heir to all creation:

MY LIFE IS LIKE A GARDEN

My life is like a garden of delight
Guarded by towering trees of knowledge
That spread their shady canopies of leaves
High in the heavens,
Filtering the sunshine 'til it falls
Like little nymphs of gladness
Dancing gaily on the velvet lawn.

Here and there in places suited to them
Live radiantly, my flowers. All living thoughts
Some saucy ones lift up their happy faces
To laugh, outright their thanks for the flooding sunshine.
Others prefer the gentler half-lights
Of the shady bower -- so delicate are they
But oh, so lovely that the very stream of life
Must pause to bless them.

I have no rigid paths that would restrict,
But rather may I like a happy child,
Go wheresoe're I list; living in loveliness.
There is a sparkling fountain of clear inspiration
Flowing direct from out the heart of time
Which countless lives have blessed
With mighty thought of beauty and of truth.

My life is like a garden! I have seeds
To give to all who may desire them.
But not one bloom, nay, not one blade of grass
Can others pluck and take away
But that it dies and withers up -- a useless thing.
But I have seeds! Take what you will.
Plant them with care and faith.
And as you tend and love them they will grow
To make your life a heavenly garden too!



And in a shady corner is a pool where a few lilies bloom
In heavenly chastity.
It once was choked with weeds,
All dogmas and false fears.
But now 'tis clear, a pool of pure religion,
For bending low to seek the face of God
I see myself, His son and heir of all creation.

NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES

NAFOW 2022 was held on the Labour Day weekend in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This was a great location, as the state has so much history of Welsh settlements at various times over the past few centuries of US history.

The convention hotel, the Doubletree Hilton, was in an ideal location on Broad Street, the Avenue of the Arts.

The theatre where we attended two concerts, and Macy's Department store where the first recital was held, were within a few blocks walking distance.

John Iwan Jones, an award-winning baritone singer from Wales, started the weekend with an amazing performance at Macy's.

Eschoir, a Welsh male choir from London gave an excellent and enjoyable evening of song at the Grand Concert.

The Gymanfa Ganu held on Sunday afternoon, was at the beautiful Church of the Redeemer, at Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

There were many interesting seminars, theatre, and films offered, and it is always difficult to choose which ones to attend.

All of the Welsh music is a highlight of the weekend for me.

I appreciate very much, the financial assistance of the Calgary Welsh Society to help me to attend this year's wonderful Festival of Wales.

Margaret Hunziker



Philadelphia Mural near Hotel

SOME NOTES FROM MY NAFOW, PHILADELPHIA EXPERIENCE!

Elaine Westlake

I'm proud to be a WNAA (Welsh North American Association) Board member, so it was especially important for me to get to this year's Festival.

I arrived at our festival headquarters, the Double Tree by Hilton, City Centre, late evening on Monday August 29/22. It's located on Broad St. along the Avenue of the Arts, a very central location, as I found out in daylight the next day.

I had signed up for the Thursday bus tour to the Welsh Tract so was in the lobby and 'rarin to go by 7:30 am. The Welsh Tract was a portion of the US state of Pennsylvania settled largely by Welsh speaking Quakers in the late 1600's.

On Thursday evening I was seated in the beautiful Perelman Theatre at the Kimmel Cultural Campus just a few blocks away for the Opening Ceremony to be followed by the Opening Concert. The Opening Ceremony featured three excellent local musicians, namely Todd Thomas, baritone, Katherine Crusi, soprano and Bronwyn Livezey violinist. The Opening Concert was a celebration of the centenary of Urdd Gobath Cymru (Welsh League of Youth) and four immensely talented young people from Wales, Manon Ogwen Parry, Siriol Elin, Tomos Bohanna and Dafydd Jones were the the artists.

The traditional Grand Banquet, sponsored by the North American Wales Foundation, took place on Friday evening. This year's honouree and recipient of the Heritage Medallion was Edward Morus Jones, "A beloved transatlantic leader of Welsh American Life". Edward is the Welsh representative on our WNAA board.

After a glorious Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday Our evening ended with the Noson Lawen where we spent two relaxed hours ending the weekend's activities by singing folk songs and enjoying short, open-mic performances by festival attendees.

There was one last all day tour on Monday to Longwood Gardens



Left:
Pub Sing-a-long

Right:
Urdd Singers in
Opening Concert



Left:
Longwood
Gardens

Right:
Noson Lawen
Performers





CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY

DEAR MEMBERS – NADOLIG LLAWEN!

After a 2 year pause due to the Pandemic restrictions, we are very pleased to once again invite you to attend our Annual Christmas Brunch on December 11, 2022.

It will be held at the same place as before, now known as the **Royal Hotel Calgary by Windham, 2828 – 23 Street NE, Calgary, AB T2E 8T4**. Doors open at 10:30, Brunch will be served at 11:00.

YOUR COST for the Brunch will be **\$35.00 per adult, \$15.00 per child ages 5 to 12**, Children under 5 are **free**. Please note: this is a **subsidized price**, the difference in cost will be made up by CWS funds. The hotel provided us with the brunch Buffet menu at the foot of this e-mail.

PLEASE REGISTER in advance by **December 4, 2022** with your RSVP directly with **Margaret Freedman, President, Calgary Welsh Society** by phone at **403-383-7236**, specifying the names and number of adults or children who will attend. Please note: The hotel requires advance notice of the number of attendees, so unlike previous years **we will not be able to accept registration or payment at the door**. **Payment in advance** in the amount of **\$35.00 per adult, \$15.00 per child ages 5 to 12 is due by December 4, 2022**.

Please remit to “The Calgary Welsh Society” either by:

1 **Interac e-transfer** to our bank account at treasurer.calgarywelshsociety@gmail.com

There is a comments box in which we would appreciate you inserting the names and amounts you are paying for each person. (If you are paying by Interac e-transfer, we are registered to receive e-transfer deposits without the use of a qualifying Security question and answer) **OR**
2 **By Cheque** payable to “Calgary Welsh Society” by Canada Post. to our Treasurer: **John Hopkins, #3209, 5000 – 50th AVE SW, Calgary AB T3E 8H1** Again, please send a note with the names and amounts you are paying for each individual.

Hwyl fawr a Nadolig Llawen,

Margaret Freedman, President, Calgary Welsh Society

Brunch Menu

Assorted Breakfast Pastries

Seasonal Sliced Fresh Fruit

Crispy Bacon

Scrambled Eggs

Hash Browns

Mixed Field greens with Assorted Dressings

Herb Roasted Chicken

Rice Pilaf

Mixed Vegetable Medley

Dessert Assorted Cakes, Pies & Sweet Squares

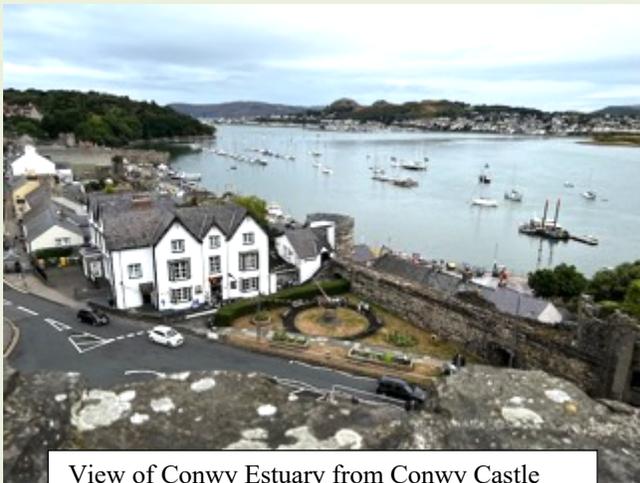
A TASTE OF WALES IN PICTURES

Summer Travel of David & Mona Matthews

Historical map of Wales – National Library



St. Teilo's church in St. Fagans



View of Conwy Estuary from Conwy Castle



Caernarvon Castle



Rolling Hills of Cardiganshire



Aberaeron Harbour

THE SANDS OF DEE

Ann Williams

There was a cholera outbreak in Flint (N. Wales) in 1849. Dr. George Kingsley was staying with relatives in Northop at the time and, "with great devotion, he gratuitously and tirelessly attended the stricken poor of Flint".

The doctor's brother, The Rev. Charles Kingsley (author of *The Water-Babies* and *Westward Ho!*) visited the same relations in 1850 and it is said that there, in Kelsterton, overlooking the broad estuary of the Dee, Charles was inspired to write this poem:

The Sands of Dee

O Mary, go and call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home
Across the sands of Dee;
The western wind was wild and dank with foam,
And all alone went she.

The western tide crept up along the sand,
And o'er and o'er the sand,
And round and round the sand,
As far as eye could see.
The rolling mist came down and hid the land:

And never home came she.

Oh! is it weed, or fish, or floating hair,
A truss of golden hair,
A drownèd maiden's hair
Above the nets at sea?
Was never salmon yet that shone so fair
Among the stakes of Dee.

They rowed her in across the rolling foam,
The cruel crawling foam,
The cruel hungry foam,
To her grave beside the sea:
But still the boatmen hear her call the
cattle home
Across the sands of Dee.

Cantre'r Gwaelod was an area of land which, according to legend, was located in an area west of Wales which is now under the waters of Cardigan Bay.

There are several versions of the myth. The earliest known form of the legend is usually said to appear in the *Black Book of Carmarthen*. In this version, the land was lost to floods when a well-maiden named Mererid neglected her duties and allowed the well to overflow.^[2]



REMAINS OF THE FOREST OF CANTRE'R GWAELOD
ON BORTH BEACH IN CARDIGANSHIRE!

**A GENTLE REMINDER THAT MEMBERSHIP
PAYMENT IS NOW DUE FOR THE UPCOMING
YEAR 2023.**

**SENIOR COUPLE: \$20; SENIOR SINGLE: \$15.
ADULT COUPLE: \$25; ADULT SINGLE: \$20
FAMILY: \$30**

**For your convenience, membership payment may be made
at the Christmas Brunch on December 11th.**

Otherwise please pay by:

i. mailing your cheques to:

Jean Kuhn, Box11, Turner Valley, AB T0L 2A0

OR

ii. e-transfer to ja.kuhn@telus.net

**DO YOU REMEMBER THE
5th OF NOVEMBER?**

**"Remember, Remember the 5th of
November, Gunpowder, Treason and Plot"**



NOSON LAWEN IS BACK !!

Ross and Pam Hicks

THE CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY'S "annual" Noson Lawen has returned! Over 25 CWS members joined together on Saturday, September 24th at the Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church to "reboot" our traditional time of sharing poems, stories and even a version of the hit song "My Favourite Things".

We shared an updated table-top display of the CWS history and browsed books and publications which have recently come into the Society's possession.

It was a fine afternoon to gather with old and some new friends and finally get a chance to talk face-to-face again and enjoy each other's company and the light refreshments so well prepared by our committee.

We hope there will be no more Covid pauses and our society can build again on the success of this very nice afternoon!

Next up: our Christmas brunch on December 11th. Hope to see everyone there for Christmas fare, celebration, song and prizes

