



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the
Toronto Welsh Community

Volume 36 - Number 02

Chwefror / February, 2003

Rev. Dr. Larry Beech PhD

The winter seems v-e-r-y l-o-n-g this year, and one of the reasons for this feeling is that Easter in 2003 occurs in the calendar almost as late in the year as possible.

Easter is the first Sunday after the first Friday after the first full moon after the 21st of March. Ordinarily the season of Lent begins around the end of February, but this year the first Sunday in Lent- six weeks before Easter - is March 9. It is no wonder that the winter seems interminably l-o-n-g.

But St. David's day is already on the horizon and the movement towards Easter begins soon afterwards.

Christingle Sunday on January 26 was a new event in our lives - and one that we thoroughly enjoyed. Although the last Sunday in January was a v-e-r-y cold morning, a great many of our girls and boys were present to participate in the worship service. My wife Sandra shared an introduction to the Christingles with the children, and their interaction with Sandra was delightful.

Once again, a great deal of appreciation to so many of you who are working so hard to ensure that our life within the Dewi Sant community remains warm and vibrant.

Rev. Lawrence A. Beech Ph.D.
Minister

The Pastoral Search Committee

Committee Members: Myfanwy Bajaj, Dr. Murray Black, Betty Cullingworth (Chair), Cyril Evans, Mabel Hastings, Tom Jones, Lyn Jones, Nerys Phan, Hefina Phillips (Co-Chair), Clarice Terry (Secretary), Reverend Gordon Nodwell (Presbytery Representative)

It is important that all Church members and friends of Dewi Sant know that the Pastoral Search Committee is at work sending out advertisements, developing packages for potential applicants and attempting to spread the word through print journalism and other media. We are also counting on all interested parties to keep us apprised of any names or contacts that may bear fruit as we search for the right candidate to assume the role of minister at Dewi Sant. Already I have heard from some Gadwyn readers of potential leads. Please keep them coming!!

All committee members will be pleased to accept any comments or suggestions that you may have. Again "word of mouth" will continue to be an important cog in the wheel of advertisement. Please spread the news of our ministerial vacancy to family and friends. One never knows what seed may bear fruit.

Diolch yn fawr for your continuing support.

Submitted by **Betty Cullingworth.**

Dewi Sant United Church Women

World day of Prayer 2003 will take place at St Timothy's Anglican Church at 1:30pm on Friday March 7th. There will be refreshments served after the service.

It is entitled "Holy Spirit fill us" and was written by the women of Lebanon. It is adapted for use in Canada by WICC.

World day of Prayer offers us a moment to reflect upon and affirm our faith in Jesus Christ, to share in the community of Christians around the World, and to commit to working for social justice.

Do come out and join our neighbouring Churches.

St Timothy's Anglican Church is located at the Ridley Blvd and Old Orchard Grove corner, just a little north west of Dewi Sant.

Next UCW Meeting

On Tuesday, March 25, we welcome you all to an evening of "Eastern Delights", music, fashion and good food. All are welcome!

In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we report the death of a dear friend to all of us at Dewi Sant. Maurice McConnell passed away earlier this month on March 11th leaving behind his wife Gaynor. Condolences and love go to Gaynor in this time of sorrow. There will be a memorial service for Maurice at Dewi Sant on March 16th at 1:00 pm.

Ghosts In Wales - Ysbrydion Yng Nghymru

If you visit the Lleyn peninsula and have the time to spare it is possible to follow the Pilgrims Route to Bardsey (Ynys Enlli) Island, which from the point of view of ghosts at least, may prove interesting. Sometimes even from the mainland people, have reported seeing phantom monks on the shores. The very sight of these is said to foretell storms. If you do cross and visit the island it may prove worth your while to explore a little, because Bardsey Island, in common with Abergwili in Carmarthen claims to be Merlin's resting place.

Submitted by Olwen Dunets

Thank You, Dewi Sant

Dear Gadwyn readers,

Just a note to share a few heart warming moments with the Dewi Sant Community and to pass on the little ray of sunshine which warmed my heart at the beginning of a bleak January.

On New Year's Eve I received the dreaded phone call to say that my mother was on life support at Llanelli Hospital in South Wales, and that I had no time to lose. By 7:00 pm I was on the plane, 'headed home.' The pilot wished all the 'Brits' a Happy New Year as 2003 was already ringing in over there, but I was filled with dread at the thought of what lay ahead. I arrived at Heathrow at 7:00 a.m. and by 9:00 a.m. I was on the coach and heading down the M4 to Swansea. My sister and my father were at the coach station to meet me but they had more news for me. Andrea, my 19 year old daughter had been working in Wales as a nanny since September, and while I was in the air, she had slipped on broken glass and had severed a tendon in her hand. She was scheduled for surgery at Morriston Hospital later that day in their Plastic Surgery Unit. I went to see my mother in the Intensive Care Unit in Llanelli before joining Andrea in Morriston. Sadly my mother passed away later that week and the day before her funeral Andrea had to have her stitches removed, so once again it was back to Morriston. I sat numbly in the waiting room while she went in for the procedure. Soon she appeared at the door beckoning to me. Apparently the nurse wanted to speak to me. My first thought was one of fear - complications perhaps, but instead there was a big smile. Her name was Sheridan Thomas and she had been a Nanny in Scarborough years ago. She was a very good friend of Donna Morris and apparently Donna had just been over to Wales to visit her. Andrea had proudly told Sheridan that she and her sisters, Karen and Emma had been baptized at Dewi Sant by Rev. Cerwyn Davies. The

names of many of the members were familiar to both of us as we talked fondly about The Morris', The Woodey's, etc:- etc:- and memories of the lovely times at Dewi Sant came flooding back for both of us.

What a wonderful lift that was – as immigrants many of us live between both worlds and at a time of such sadness it is easy to feel that we are torn between the both. Thanks to Dewi Sant there were smiles all around. I am also pleased to report that the staff at the Hand Therapy Unit and the Toronto Western Hospital reported that the staff at Morryston had done a fine job! Congratulations to both health care systems for wonderful treatment and care.

Andrea came back with me (before she had planned) with one hand in a splint - she is doing well and by the way she is looking for a job!

Kind regards
Christine Bretherick (Jones)
17 Marilyn Drive
Guelph, Ontario, N1H 1G9
Tel: 519-766-4951
christine.bretherick@sympatico.ca

Can You Help Me?

My uncle, Jack Evans, came originally from Morfa Nefyn, Pwllheli, Gwynedd.

His sister was Jane Evans, who married name was Brady. Jane's daughter (Betty) Elizabeth Catherine Brady now Morris is desperately trying to find Jack (between AGE of 70- 90) or any of his family.

Please can you help me find my mothers family, its so important to her. My mother lost her mum when she was only a very small girl, in fact she lost touch with everyone! Then her father also died while she was a child.

All we really know of Jack is that he was a seaman and was not here lots, then he travelled to Canada, we don't know where, but maybe you or someone else knows him. Please, please can you help? PLEASE.

We do not know if he is still alive? Maybe there is some other family? Please help me do this for my mum. I really hope you can help me.

Thanks / Diolch yn fawr,
Amanda xx

North American Festival

As St. David's Day approaches, our thoughts are with you and all of the Welsh. Many will gather to celebrate Wales' patron saint, their proud Welsh heritage and here in North America, the tremendous contribution that Wales has given to all aspects of our lives. The committee wishes you success and happiness and we hope to

see many of you here in Vancouver & Richmond, B.C. at the first North American Festival of Wales and 72nd National Gymanfa Ganu.

Our biggest challenge in uniting the Welsh of North America is getting the word out to people of Welsh descent about our annual gathering. We would be most grateful if you would announce the Festival at your gatherings, put a notice in your newsletter and on your web site, and put up a link to our home page.

Our Welcoming message is:

The North American Festival of Wales, (formerly the National Gymanfa Ganu) welcomes you to Vancouver - Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, August 28 - 31, 2003 for 4 days of enjoyment in celebration of our Welsh Heritage. Hear Wales' current Eisteddfod Champions, the Duvant Male choir, popular baritone Jason Howard and talented folk group, Mabon. Join the nightly singing and the Sunday Gymanfa Ganu. Participate in a variety of Festival activities in one of North America's top holiday destinations.

For information: www.nafow.org

email: ellis@gustavus.edu

Call toll free 1-877-831-0563

Happy St. David's Day

Don Murray – Consulting

14920 21 Ave.

Surrey, BC, V4A 8G4, Canada

Tel: 604 542-2470 Tel./Fax. 604 542-2480

don_murray@telus.net

Love Spoons - Llwyau Caru

Wales is a land filled with romanticism, and the ancient custom of making and giving LOVE SPOONS, is perhaps the most romantic custom of all.

Love Spoons were associated with courtship, when it was traditional for young lovers to fashion intricately carved wooden spoons and present them to their sweethearts.

The more complex the design the more difficult to carve, the more the spoon symbolized the carver's passion and his willingness to labour for the young lady it was given to.

Because more than one beaux may have competed for the same local beauty, it was often important to identify the carver of the spoon. This was done using symbols, which related to the makers personal interest or his way of life.

A horse for the horse fancier, a wheel for a traveller, a ship for a sailor, etc.

Traditionally, wooden spoons were the most important eating implement in the working man's home.

This was because CAWL (Welsh broth) was the basic diet of the country folk..

Special cabinets and racks were made on which the spoons were kept.

The size of the bowl, the length of the handle, the weight and balance – in fact, the whole character of the spoon altered from district to district and spoons could be identified with their places of origin.

Young lovers began using the spoon as a vehicle on which to demonstrate their ardour and ambitions to provide a better life for the lady of their choice.

Obviously not all the would-be suitors were capable of making spoons, they often employed the services of a more skilled friend or a local expert to help. This is why duplicates are to be found of spoons originally believed to be unique.

By today the art of love spoons has developed beyond all recognition. The best artistry and carvings has virtually made the love spoon useless and only decorative. Now, love spoons are much sought after collectors pieces. The ever growing demand by tourists has developed a trade of badly made mass produced facsimiles of the original concept.

If buyers are discerning, carvers can still be found who will make love spoons with the same feelings and love for the work, which their counterparts of yesteryear understood.

On the next page Harry Webb's poem tells us about some of the symbols carved into the Love Spoon and their meanings. If you are interested in a new hobby, I have a long list of symbols available.

Myfanwy

THE LOVESPOON

In days gone by, a lad too shy
To tell his love too soon
Would by this sign say, Please be mine:
He'd give his girl a spoon.

With tender heart he'd carve each part,
The handle, stem and bowl.
With a deft knife he'd claim a wife
And win her loving soul.

Each symbol clear would tell his dear
The hopes his mind delighted;
The twisted stem meant both of them
Would always be united.

The Wheel vowed work, he would not shirk
To build a cosy nest,
Of luck the crescent Horseshoe spoke,
The Key said Home is best.

The Soul, the Heart declared the part
That gladly he'd forgo,
Each little Ball would tell her all
Their children in a row.

The merry Bell of marriage spoke,
He'd lead her to the altar,
The Shield, protection stout as oak,
His faith would never falter.

And as they walked, and as they talked
Beneath the country moon
Her blush would glow, for well she'd know
The message of the spoon.

By Harry Webb

Never take away anyone's hope. That may be all that they have

Announcements

Peter Hobbs is resting comfortably at home after receiving surgery. He thanks you all for your good wishes!

Just A Bit Of Humour!!

Little Johnny and his family were having dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate he started eating right away. "Johnny, wait until we say our prayer." "I don't have to." The boy replied. "Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house," Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook."

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His children were outside, still in their pyjamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all across the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door of the house. Proceeding into the entry, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room the TV was loudly blaring a cartoon channel. The family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was spilled on the floor. A broken glass lay under the table and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He headed quickly up the stairs to look for his wife, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes. He was now very worried that she may be ill or that something serious had happened to her.

He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled in bed in her pyjamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled and enquired how his day went.

He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and you ask me what in the world did I do today?" "Yes," was his incredulous reply.

She answered, "**Well, today I didn't do it!**"

Submitted By Huw Jones

Chapel Closures

On average it is estimated that one chapel a week is closing across Wales. In the Pembrokeshire National Park area alone, 34 churches and chapels have closed in the last 50 years. A recent survey by the National Park Authority revealed that 15 have been converted into houses, 4 are used for commercial purposes, 3 are in use as County Halls, 2 have been demolished and 9 are derelict and unused. One, the ancient Knight Hospitaller Church in Slebech Pembrokeshire is a controlled ruin.

Submitted By Olwen Dunets

Kitchen Corner

Cornel Y Gegin

Why not be patriotic on this Saint David's Day and make this tasty leek dish?

Leeks And Ham In Sauce

You will need: 6 leeks, 6 slices of cooked ham,. 2 oz. butte, 1oz. flour,
4 oz. grated cheese, 1 pint milk, 1oz. breadcrumbs,
Clove of garlic - crushed, Salt and pepper.

Method: Wash and trim the leeks and cook in salted, boiling water for 10 minutes. Drain and place on a warm dish. Melt half the butter in a pan and stir in the flour. Warm gently for 1 minute and slowly add the milk, stirring all the time. Cook slowly, until the sauce thickens.

Add the grated cheese and season with the crushed garlic and salt and pepper.

Wrap each of the leeks in a slice of ham and place in an ovenproof dish. Pour the sauce over the rolls, gently. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs and dot the remaining butter. Place the dish under the grill until golden brown. Enjoy.

They say that there is a tradition that the **leek** became the national emblem of Wales when used at the battle of Meigen in the seventh century. Some say that King Arthur won a victory over Saxon invaders by Welsh troops wearing leeks in their caps thus distinguishing themselves from opposition.

Since there is room to spare I will include something sweet to eat after the above dish !!

Flummery

3 tablespoons of clear honey, 4 egg yolks, ½ pint sweet wine, ½ pint double cream, 2 tablespoons brandy, Thinly peeled rind and juice of 1 lemon.

Put honey, beaten egg yolks and lemon rind into a basin over a saucepan of hot water and cook until the eggs thicken and are a light colour. Add the lemon juice and wine, remove from the heat and stir in the stiffly whipped cream.

Whisk in the brandy and pour the flummery into a mould or individual glasses. Once set, place on a decorative plate and serve garnished with sponge fingers.

Eat slowly savouring every delicious mouthful. M.

Cooking Tip: For a good basic stock use bought or left over from a meal i.e. carcasses of chickens, veal knuckles etc. Brown the bones in the oven for 30 minutes. Transfer to a large saucepan and add 3 chopped carrots, 2 chopped onions, 1 clove garlic, ½ bottle dry white wine and a large bunch of fresh mixed herbs. Cover with water, bring to a boil, then simmer for 3 hours. Skim off occasionally and strain through a sieve.

**** N.B** For last month's Beef Bourguignon, please add 1 cup burgundy. Both cook and editor apologise for not including this most important ingredient.

Up until a few years ago the country people of Wales considered it improper to buy their **meat** in town. They always insisted on making their purchases from market stalls. This is why markets in Wales continue to be so prolific.

Donations For Y Gadwyn

Doreen Barber, Christine Campney, Keith & Agnes Davies, Mary Edwards, John & Esther Little, Norm & Phyllis McLeod.

From The Mail Bag

Thank you for Y Gadwyn, I enjoy reading it every month! On January 8, 2003, we were blessed with the birth of our second son, Kyle Stafford Cordy, grandson to Nesta Pickering (nee Hughes). Elder brother Kieran is very proud.

Sincerely, Christine Campney

Changes Of Address

Myfanwy Williams Owen. 101 Glen Manor Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M4E 3Y3. Phone number not changed.

Cerwyn & Nora Davies. 508 – 20 Guildwood Parkway, Scarborough, Ontario, M1E 5B6.

Olwen Morgan. 40 William Roe Blvd, Apt. 901, Newmarket, L3Y 5N4

Profit & Loss Statement	
1/1/2003 through 1/31/2003	
Income	
Members	\$4,674
Friends & Associates	\$1,095
Loose	\$148
Gadwyn	\$425
Rental Facilities-Mastermind	\$200
Rental Facilities-Newworld	\$75
Manse Rental	\$1,205
Total Income	\$7,822
Expenses	
Office & General	\$712
Other (Bk Chgs, Observer, Int Exp)	(\$4)
Organist	\$870
Caretaker	\$568
Presbytery Dues	\$367
Insurance	\$301
Maintenance-Church	\$617
Payroll - Minister	\$2,500
Payroll - Secretary	\$2006
Secretary-Txbl Benefit (Ins)	\$26
Utilities (Gas/Hydro/Water/Phones)	\$1,508
Technology	\$315
Total Expenses	\$9,786
Net Profit / (Loss)	(\$1,964)

Thank you for your contributions. I'd be delighted to get some more interesting stories etc. Y Gadwyn is only as good as **you the readers** make it. As you see, I have two or three regular contributors. They would also like to see more folks sending in articles. . Please try to send something of interest to me for the next Gadwyn. Myfanwy.

Date of the next Gadwyn Deadline is March 16. Please send all contributions to Dewi Sant Office or to myfanwy@rogers.com.

Thanks to Tara Siân Bajaj- Freemantle for technical help.

Dewi Sant Calendar of Events - 2003

The community of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church will meet Sundays at 11 a.m. for worship. Sunday School is scheduled to take place every Sunday morning at the regular time.

Welsh Language Services are held at 7 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month.

Up Coming Events

Ontario Gymanfa Ganu – Stratford, Ontario, April 25-27, 2003. Please be aware that you need to register by March 24th. in order to get the special group rate. There are registration forms in the narthex at Dewi Sant. You may also get in touch with me if you need further information. Myfanwy.

The world of medieval Wales - One day symposium - Saturday March 15th 2003 9:00am – 4:30pm, Alumni Hall Theatre – 100 St. Joseph St. Symposium will investigate what we know and are able to reconstruct about the culture and society of early Wales. Fee is \$150, Seniors \$125, Blue card members \$75

North American Festival of Wales - Featuring the 72nd Annual Gymanfa Ganu. Richmond, (Vancouver) B.C. August 28-31 2003. This festival promises to be excellent. Side trips are being arranged to Whistler, Olde World Victoria on Vancouver Island, an Alaskan Luxury Cruise and a West Coast Adventure. Dunvent Male Voice choir, Jason Howard, Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion are but a few of the Headliners. For details telephone 1-877-831-0563.