

## **Dewi Sant Welsh United Church**

33 Melrose Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario. M5M 1Y6  
Phone 416-485-7583 Fax 416-485-2978  
**Web [www.dewisant.com](http://www.dewisant.com)**  
**Email [info@dewisant.com](mailto:info@dewisant.com)**

### **Gair gan y Gweinidog      A word from the Minister**

Since I last wrote in the Gadwyn I have been back to Wales for a couple of weeks, meeting friends and family. It was really nice hearing positive comments from them about the Gadwyn. This Newsletter is being widely read in Wales either in hard copy or, increasingly, on line.

One reason for Annette and I deciding to return to Wales at this time was to attend a wedding at Llanuwchllyn, the wedding of Dilwyn and Manon, the daughter of June and granddaughter of Ena, two avid readers of the Gadwyn since 2004. Of course, it rained – but no-one minded. The couple had arranged things accordingly. Manon was half an hour late arriving for the service – there was no worry, no panic. As a result the reception and evening gathering were put back about one hour – but everyone was cool about that. Yes, everything went well, no worries, no hassles. I am sure that if these little glitches happened in most areas of life there would be absolute panic, ‘the whole day would be ruined’ would be the comment. But what is the use of stressing ourselves so much as to spoil a perfectly wonderful occasion and a very special day. When something as important as Love is concerned, we can put the little things that go wrong in the right perspective. When we realize that God is Love, everything falls into place and every negative thing becomes redundant.

Myfanwy is now probably looking forward to the Summer break so that she can catch her breath and take a well earned rest from the stresses of producing this newsletter. I wish to thank her for her consistent efforts to bring to you the news of the Welsh at Dewi Sant Church, in Toronto and beyond. May I also thank the team who work so very diligently to ensure that the paper is collated, printed and distributed. My gratitude also to those of you who contribute to the newsletter – without your input there would be nothing to read!

If there is anything you wish for us to know about, a special event that has happened or is about to happen, inform Myfanwy so that she can let everyone know through the Gadwyn, and if you wish, in future, to receive the Gadwyn by e.mail or through the Church website, again let us know as this would ease the financial and work pressures involved.

To all who are taking vacations over the Summer, have a good time and return safely. To those staying in Toronto, remember that Sunday service will continue as usual!

Bendith Duw arnoch,

**Deian**

\*\*\*\*\***For the attention of all Dewi Sant Members**\*\*\*\*\* :

At the meeting of the Board of Session on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, a proposal was passed which reads as follows –

‘A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008** after the morning service, to accept the motion that on one Sunday every year the Welsh Service will be held at 11:00 am and that on the same Sunday the English Service will be held at 7:00 pm.

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## **OUTREACH 2008 – Daily Bread Food Bank Project**

7,000 lbs! That’s how much food Dewi Sant Church sorted at the Daily Bread Food Bank on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to your generous donations over the past four weeks, Dewi Sant was also able to give 720 lbs. of food to the Food Bank.

Seventeen members and friends participated at the Food Bank in our first group outreach program. Thanks to Donna Morris, who organized the event, participants had a very rewarding day.

The day started at 10:45am as people arrived at the Food Bank. After signing in, Dewi Sant ‘workers’ had a tour of the facility and a mini-workshop. Then the sorting began. At a nominal fee of \$2 per person, the food bank also provided lunch.

In the workshop, everyone learned something new. Did you know that the number of people accessing the food banks in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) has increased by 80% in the last 10 years? Only 2% of people using the food bank are homeless. A large proportion of food bank clients have an income that is half the poverty line (poverty line = \$20 - \$25 thousand per annum for an individual). After paying for rent and utilities, the average food bank recipient has \$6.61 per day.

Food Bank clients fall into the following categories:

- Working Poor
- Homeless
- Children
- Disabled
- Jobless
- New Immigrants
- Single Parents
- Seniors
- Students
- Welfare

A disturbing fact is that children comprise 34% of recipients at the Food Bank. Another little known fact is that 27% of the people who use food banks have a college or university education.

The Daily Bread Food Bank donates 1 million pounds of food a month through 191 agencies in the GTA. Twenty percent of donations come from individuals and non-corporate organizations. Eighty percent of donations are from Industry. Of the 80%, 10% is through reclamation. For example, grocery stores donate unsold food from shelves and unsuccessful product lines (remember purple ketchup?).

The Food Bank has a cafeteria, run by three qualified chefs, which provides 2,000 meals a week to agencies and meal programs. They also serve 150 meals a day to clients accessing the Food Bank. The cafeteria also offers a 16-week Chef course to Food Bank clients, which will qualify them to apply for work in restaurants and other cafeterias.

The Food Bank does not receive Government funding and this is deliberate. As an independent organization in charge of their own funds, they are uniquely positioned to apply the necessary pressure on the Government for change in health and social issues, as they relate to hunger. In 2007, the Food Bank was successful in influencing the Provincial Government decision to amend the Child Benefit Act, which raised the child subsidy to \$92 per child in a family. They are also continually involved in many

other poverty reduction goals for children, people with disabilities, and immigrants, to name just a few groups.

The Dewi Sant volunteers worked together like a well-oiled machine, unloading the containers of donated food, checking expiration dates and packing conditions, and sorting it into the appropriate boxes for the warehouse. At 3:30pm, Dewi Sant volunteers stopped and team leaders overseeing the sorting tables were very impressed with the amount of food sorted by the group. Participants felt good about it too. Not only had they helped an important cause, they had had fun doing it.

The Outreach Committee wishes to thank the many people who donated to the food drive. Also a big vote of thanks to the volunteers, who participated in the event. The old adage “many hands make light work” was never better demonstrated.

Finally, the committee wants to express their gratitude and appreciation to Donna Morris for doing an outstanding job of organizing this project for Dewi Sant.

There is definitely another such project in Dewi Sant's future. In the meantime, remember that the Lansing basket needs your food donations too and stay tuned to the Outreach bulletin board in the fellowship hall for more news.

Meriel Simpson.

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## **Outreach Visit to the Toronto Christian Resource Centre**

We were invited to a “Lunch and Learn” event at the Toronto Christian Resource Centre on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Four members from Dewi Sant Welsh United Church attended and were served a nutritious lunch as we met members from other churches who had come to find out more about the work of the Centre. We were introduced to the staff, and members of the Board told us a little of the history and structure of the CRC.

The Director, Debra Dineen, then told us about the History, Vision and Mission as well as on-going renovations at Regent Park, illustrated with facts and pictures, and followed by a walk around the area. We learned that their mission is *'Helping people help themselves'* which they have been doing for over 40 years. As well as the Drop-In centre, where 200 people are fed daily, they help the homeless find affordable shelter, develop skills, teach English and give spiritual support to those in need. With the major redevelopment of Regent Park plans for relocating and supporting the longterm residents has put a huge financial and social strain on all concerned with the CRC, including the United Church.

This event was part of the CRC's (Christian Resource Centre) process of making a strong effort to reach out and connect with all the congregations in South Presbytery. This is one of the projects we will consider for Dewi Sant's Outreach.

Nêst Pritchard.

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## **Ministry and Personnel Update**

Dewi Sant is fortunate to have warm and capable non-ministerial staff to assist in the smooth and effective running of the administrative tasks of the church. However, the work time allotted for staff is limited by our church budget. The M and P Committee respectfully requests church members to limit the time spent on the telephone, on e-mail or in person with the staff to such time as required to deal with church business. Let's all work together to make sure that our allotted administrative hours are put to the best possible use in the service of Dewi Sant.

**Betty Cullingworth (Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee)**

**While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'**

## **MISSION & SERVICE BBQ - Celebrating 20 years!**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 7th right after church. Once again Joan Lloyd is opening her home to the BBQ, as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Tickets are \$8.00 and will be available in June. Hope to see you all there.

**Meriel, Joan, Nêst and Betty J.**

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### **U C W      Merched Y Capel**

The Spring bazaar and bake sale this year was very successful. This is not the easiest time of the year to hold a bazaar, what with people going to the cottage, sports activities etc. With hard work and cheerful smiles the ladies managed to make over \$2000. This was very encouraging. The largest sum was raised by the bake sale which is always very popular. Gaynor McConnell is to be credited with organizing this stall. The ladies exceeded themselves with all the wonderful baking. Thanks to all of you bakers out there. We appreciate your efforts very much. Co chair Joy Bailey ran a tea room which served the most delicious soup, sandwiches and goodies to follow. Thanks to all the ladies running the other stalls, you all worked long and hard. Dewi Sant Church is lucky to have so many willing workers. Thanks go to Nina Morris chair of the event and her willing helpers. We can not name everyone as I am sure someone would be missed out. Also a thank you to all of you who came out to support our efforts, to spend money—for a good cause and to cheer us on. Diolch yn fawr i bawb. Thank you very much to all.

**Myfanwy Bajaj (Co chair.)**

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### **Cornel Fach Y Gegin.    Kitchen Corner. Cream of Apple and Parsnip Soup.**

#### **Ingredients.**

2 tablespoons unsalted butter: 1 tablespoon olive oil: 1 large leek, trimmed, split and rinsed well. Use both white and green parts: 1 clove of garlic minced: 1 teaspoon of curry powder: ½ teaspoon of coriander powder: 2 tablespoons of all purpose flour: 2 apples peeled cored and chopped: 2 parsnips, peeled and chopped into 1 inch pieces: ½ teaspoon of salt: ¼ teaspoon of white pepper: 3 cups of chicken or vegetable soup: 1 cup table cream or whole milk: ¼ cup of fresh parsley chopped: 1 cup of croutons.

#### **Method.**

In a large saucepan, combine butter with oil and melt over medium heat. Add leeks and sauté until softened—about 4 minutes. Add garlic and cook for another minute, then stir in curry powder, coriander and flour. Cook for another 2 to 3 minutes. Add apples, parsnips, salt and pepper. Mix well and add the broth, stirring the mixture to loosen any bits on the bottom of the pan. Increase the heat and bring the mixture to a boil. When fully boiling reduce the heat and let simmer for 20 to 25 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Carefully transfer the mixture to a blender or food processor. Do this in batches if need be. Puree until mixture is smooth. Wipe the saucepan clean then return the blended soup to it. Place over a low heat. Add cream or milk and heat gently. Do not allow the soup to come to a boil. Serve the soup and garnish with chopped parsley and croutons

**Joy Bailey.**

Soup can be thickened by adding mashed potato instead of the dairy produce ! M

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***Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance! It was at the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K9 partner Jake was barking I saw a little boy staring at me. "Is that a dog you got in the back there?" he asked. "Sure is," I answered. Puzzled he looked at me then the dog. Finally he said. What'd he DO?"***

## Queso Blanco Salsa

### Ingredients.

1/2 cup commercial Mexican-style red salsa  
2 scallions, chopped  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro (coriander)  
1/2 cup canned roasted red peppers, chopped  
8 ounces low-fat cream cheese (Neufchatel), I use regular Philadelphia cream cheese.

### Method.

Mix all ingredients together in a saucepan. Gently heat, stirring occasionally, until hot. Serve hot on warm dishes, or chill for 30 minutes to use as a dip for chips or crudités. Refrigerated and tightly sealed, Queso Blanco Salsa will keep for about two weeks.

Served at Merched Dewi's Summer party (from Moosewood Restaurant Cooks at Home cookbook).

**Rachel Edwards.**

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## The Ontario Welsh Festival, 2008 - Stratford

Another hugely successful Festival weekend is over. What a wonderful feeling of joy and of belonging. I am always extremely proud of my Welsh heritage but never more so than during the annual Gymanfa Ganu weekend where there are so many other people who feel exactly as I do.

A photographer from the local Stratford newspaper, the Beacon Herald asked, "Why do you do this?" No-one has ever asked me that question before, nor have I even considered it. My answer? "Because that's who we are!" It's the time of year when so many like-minded Welsh people gather to celebrate our extreme good fortune in having been born Welsh or in having Welsh heritage. We celebrate in song, laughter and camaraderie.

The weekend started off with a Noson Lawen. Emcee Myfanwy Bajaj had us all in hysterics with her repertoire of jokes. She hardly needs other entertainers as she is able, single handed, to keep us in gales of laughter. But there were plenty of volunteers willing to entertain us. Everyone felt that it was one of the best Nosweithiau Llawen ever. The singing did not end when the Noson Lawen was officially over but carried on until the wee hours of Saturday morning!

The Annual General Meeting is not the most popular event of the weekend and quite often we have to chivvy members to attend! This was a particularly important meeting because, finally, the Ontario Welsh Festival has its own insignia - a Chain of Office. This was the first time for it to be shown to the members, and President, Hefina Phillips, wore it with pride for the remainder of the weekend,

Poetry was the order of the afternoon as Beryl Baigent, originally from Llay, North Wales, gave a seminar about women in Welsh Mythology and read some of her own poems. This was followed by the usual session of poetry reading, led by Myfanwy Bajaj.

During the afternoon those lucky singers who are going to Patagonia in October were able to benefit from an intensive practice with Mari Morgan, director of the North America Welsh Choir. Exhausted, we ran from the practice in time to change into our finery for the Saturday cocktail party and banquet. We had earned that glass of wine!

Myfanwy Bajaj has been a member of the Board of the Ontario Welsh Festival since 1978. She was caught totally unawares when Hefina presented her with a plaque to honour her for her 30 years of dedication to the OGGA.

Then off to the main event of the day - the Concert given by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir. I heard nothing but compliments from everyone who attended. Under the leadership of William Woloschuk the choir performed superbly. William, Ukrainian by birth, totally understands the meaning and emotion of the Welsh songs sung by the choir, and interprets them exquisitely. Catrin Rowena Davies of Washington,DC was the guest soloist. Her delightful personality matched her beautiful mezzo soprano voice. Accompanists Julie Loveless and Alan Thomas enhanced the evening. A truly super concert.

More partying afterwards, of course! I have no idea from where the word "Afterglow" came to describe a post concert get-together. By midnight on Saturday I certainly wasn't "glowing"!!

The raison d'etre of the weekend is the Gymanfa Ganu. Aided by the choir and Catrin, and with Alan Thomas at the organ, we raised the roof of Parkview United Church. It's been along time since I've heard such singing. We sang our hearts out for Gymanfa director Mari Morgan. She has the ability to get the best out of us, though by the end of the second session of hymn singing we were all exhausted, both physically and emotionally. The traditional final hymn, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", always brings me to tears. What a glorious day! Diolch, Mari.

And so the preparations begin for next year under the leadership of our new president, the Rev. Deian Evans. See you all in Kingston, April 2009.

**Hefina Phillips**

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**Er Cof      In Memoriam.**

**Albert Hale – a tribute.**

Albert Hale passed away on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, leaving a legacy of wonderful memories to all who knew him. To know him was to respect him.

Here are some of those memories that I will hold dear.

Albert the Poet – he was famous as a poet, and was honoured as such at the highest levels. Two years ago his poem was deemed the best at the North America Eisteddfod at Cincinnati. This Eisteddfod sets the standard which gives to a poet the title 'Top Anglo Welsh American Poet'. The level of competition that year was very high, with five poems considered worthy of the first place, but Albert's poem stood head and shoulders above the rest.

Albert the Family man – Sixty two years married to May. Quite a record! After a whirlwind romance they were married in 1945, just days before he was billeted as a subscribed soldier. He and May were so compatible. They knew what the other thought, so it seemed. They faced good times and sad, joy and tragedy together, as a team. A wonderful, caring, sharing, loving team.

Albert the faithful to his Church – He and May passed numerous churches on their way down to Dewi Sant Church on a Sunday morning, but considered none other as an option for their place of worship. Albert was a conscientious supporter of our Church for decades, sitting on various committees, serving the Lord with dignity and purpose. At these meetings others would listen and follow his advice and opinions because he was held in such regard and respect. Albert served as Clerk of Session for some years.

We will also remember Albert as an honest worker, one with a beautiful singing voice, one with a smile and a twinkle that radiated joy, and as a true friend.

I will also remember Albert as one who had no fear.

On the afternoon of the day Albert passed away he and I held hands and shared a prayer. He was fully aware of what was going on. He was fully aware of the fate that awaited him. As we prayed he looked, unblinking, beyond me towards the One who shared our prayer. There was not a flicker of fear in those eyes, simply joy. He knew where he was going, and the road ahead held no fear or danger – ‘For Thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me’  
We who are left to grieve, may we gain strength from such faith as Albert possessed.

**Deian**

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*As a church and community our hearts go out to May and the family. Albert will be missed greatly. May is now residing in Elora, Ontario, near her grandchildren. I am sure that the church office will have her address.*

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Our condolences go to **Margaret Payne** of Aurora on the loss of her husband. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time in your life.

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### **John Stroud.**

John Stroud passed away suddenly on April 9<sup>th</sup> of this year. He will be sorely missed by his widow Elizabeth and the family. He was a well known, highly respected member of the community and his passing has left a large void.

During World War 2 John was incarcerated by the Japanese and suffered greatly whilst in their camp. Once John was released, he came home to Canada and worked tirelessly to unite the prisoners who formed a group known as the “The Hong Kong Veterans.” This became a nucleus of men who had suffered during their captivity. John had by this time gained a very high level position in his career and had many connections in Ottawa. Through John’s tireless efforts The Government of Canada became very well known as it was the only government to eventually support these veterans. John travelled to all the provinces lobbying for aid. Most of these men were badly injured, suffering from mental, emotional and physical problems. Gradually the small pension gained by John for them grew. He leaves behind very many families in Canada who are thankful for his untiring work on their behalf.

Dewi Sant and the community at large send condolences to Elizabeth and the family.

**Myfanwy.**

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### **Gadwyn Donors.**

Maureen & Ceiri Jones; Clive & Patricia Mason; Gaynor McConnell; Harold Rowland: Haulwen Edwards; Audrey & Meirion Roberts; Margaret Telford; Shirley Evans; Patricia Thomas; David Jones

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***I’m not a complete idiot----- Some parts are just missing !!!!!***

While watching TV the other Sunday, I saw a programme from Atlanta. A church was honouring one of their senior pastors who had been retired for many years. He was 92 and I wondered why the Church bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach. After the warm welcome, and the applause had died down he rose slowly, and with great effort shuffled to the podium. Without notes, he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then slowly began to speak.....”I was asked to preach today on the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50 years of preaching.

I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears, heartbreak, pain, fear and sorrow paralyzed me----- the only thing that would comfort was this verse.....

“Jesus loves me this I know,

For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong,

We are weak but He is strong.....

Yes Jesus loves me.....

The Bible tells me so.”

When he finished, the church was quiet you could hear his footsteps as he shuffled back to his chair! I don’t think that I will ever forget it. As a pastor I have always noted that it was adults who chose the children’s hymn and it was the adults who sang it loudest because I could see that they knew it the best.

**Joy Bailey.**

Did you hear about the blond who asked for an aisle seat in the plane so that her hair wouldn't get messed up by being near the window?

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## Llongyfarchiadau Congratulations Welsh Canadian Climbs Everest

Congratulations to my brother Dr. Hedd-wyn Williams, son of the late Rev. Hedd-wyn and Iris Williams. On May 24th, 2008 he made it to the summit of Mount Everest. He left for Nepal on March 27th and spent much of his time climbing the mountain to the various Base Camps and becoming acclimatized to the altitude. There were delays because the Chinese closed down all communications and all climbing while the Olympic torch was taken to the summit. Except for that time, we were sent a dispatch every day that he was away to tell us where he and his team were and what they were doing. This contact was wonderful because we at least didn't have to worry about him for that day. I am happy to report that he came home safe and sound to his family in Calgary on June 4th. Congratulations Hedd-wyn ! At 61 years of age that was quite feat!

**Mom and Dad would have been proud.**

**Cheryl Davies.**

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**Jeannette Roberts** is proud of her grandchildren's achievements in sports. The presentations were made recently at Crescent School---Sports Presentation Evening.

Cole Rosenberg received recognition for MVP in soccer, under age 12 years. Blake was awarded MVP for tennis, under 14 years. Proud parents, Audrey and Graham, plus grandparents and sister Madison were present. Earlier that day Audrey placed 1st at a tennis tournament held at Donalds Club. Congratulations. .Llongyfarchiadau, Cariad. *"Nana" Jeannette Roberts.*

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**Dorothy Jones** is another very proud Nain. Her grandson Tim Billings has been drafted to the **NHL**. Keep an eye on that name you hockey fans! Tim is the son of Dorothy's daughter Genevieve.

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**Irene Hughes**----Congratulations to our very dear friend Irene on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this week. We are sure that Ken, Trisha and the rest of the family have given you a great day. You deserve it.  
Llongyfarchiadau

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It is wonderful to hear good news about friends and relatives. Here in Canada we get doubly excited when we hear good news about a fellow Welsh man in our midst.

**Peter Williams**, a pure Welsh man who has never forgotten his roots, who speaks Welsh fluently, who is the chair of the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir, is now **Vice-Chairman of UOIT** - the new University of Ontario.

Peter, we are all very proud of you and will now be able to add you to the list of well known Welsh people that we know. Llongyfarchiadau i ti, a pob hwyl yn dy ymdrech newydd. Da iawn ti.  
Congratulations.

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*A woman called and asked, "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know who's luggage belongs to who?" I said, "No, why do you ask?" She replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said FAT, and I'm overweight, is there any connection?" After putting her on hold for a minute while I "looked into it" (I was actually laughing) I came back and explained the city code for Fresno is FAT, and that the airline was just putting a destination tag on her luggage*

*A man called, furious about a Florida package we did. I asked what was wrong with the vacation in Orlando. He said he was expecting an ocean-view room. I tried to explain that is not possible, since Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, "Don't lie to me. I looked on the map and Florida is a very thin state."*

*I got a call from a man who asked, "Is it possible to see England from Canada?" I said, "No." He said "But they look so close on the map!"*

## Of Interest .....The Basques and the Welsh.

Did you know that there's another small country in Europe that packs a lot into a small area. Like Wales, the Basque Country is often forgotten by many. It too has mountains and seacoast; a history of heavy industry, fishing, and remote pastoralism. A Basque fishing port, Bermeo, is reminiscent of Y Bermo (Barmouth) in Wales.

There is a common history: Wales purchased iron ore for its industry from the Bilbao region. Welsh miners also fought alongside Basques in the Spanish Civil War. Basque children came as refugees to Gwent and Glamorgan in 1937.

Like Cardiff, the Basque cities have made a comeback in recent years. Bilbao has the new Guggenheim museum, among other architectural marvels.

The Basques, too, have struggled to preserve their ancient language and culture. Unlike Welsh, which is part of a language family (Celtic), Basque or Euskara is considered to be an isolate.

Almost a million people speak the Basques' ancient language, which is making a comeback in the schools, but still struggles for its place with Spanish or French. There is a vibrant culture, similar in scope to that of Wales. In both countries, music and poetry are key means of expression. From classical and jazz to folk and rock, the Basques too have an astonishing output.

Like Wales, the Basque Country endures... "aros mae".. despite everything arrayed against it.

**David Cox.**

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### **My Holiday Memory or I Left My Head in Euskal Herria (sung to the tune of I Lost My Heart in San Francisco).**

My family and I had been to Basque Land (Euskal Herria) on two previous visits in 2002 and 2005. We enjoyed ourselves immensely and had told our friends and family of the warm welcome, child-friendly feeling, great food, beautiful beaches, green mountains and warm dry weather.

My mum and dad were going to be in Wales at the same time as we were scheduled to go to Basque Land and we decided it would be great to meet for a week in Bilbao.

My parents arrived on a Tuesday night in mid September and we arrived the next afternoon. The weather was pretty good so we went to a park for the children to play and so Nain, mum and dad could enjoy cafe con leche and Taid could enjoy izozki (ice cream). We were jet lagged so we decided to have a picnic in our room that night. Taid and Dad set out for our local store just as the heavens opened and a deluge worthy of Noah started.

As we ate our sandwiches I reassured my parents that it never rains two days in a row in Basque Land, tomorrow would come with clear and sunny skies.

We went down to breakfast the next morning to grey and rainy skies and the hotel staff were not at all optimistic about the weather. We tried the old town of Bilbao to do some shopping (for those of you who know June Edwards neither sleet nor rain nor world wars nor language barriers can get in the way of good shopping). It continued to rain and because of the siestas and different times of restaurant openings we had -- a picnic in our room again.

The next day we awoke to rain. Not just a fine mist that dampens things but a continued heavy downpour that seeped into shoes, drenched clothes and generally dampened spirits. We went to the Basque Ethnological and Historical Museum and spent as much time as possible inside as it was one of

the few inside and dry things going that would entertain a family of three generations. We were there so long we were in danger of becoming an exhibit.

The next day dawned cloudy but not pouring. We rented a van and went for a drive in the country. I had told my parents about a wonderful country inn we stayed at on our first visit with the best and cheapest food you could imagine. In my family there is an attitude when all else fails there is always food. So we set out full of anticipation and empty of stomach.

We arrived at the inn to discover they closed their kitchen two years previously. Oops. However all was not lost, there was a wonderful restaurant close by and they led us to it.

We sat down in a beautiful old farmhouse circa 1600 and waited breathlessly for our dinner. The Basques are quite like the Welsh in that there are very verbal. Before long we were friends with almost everyone in the restaurant. Sitting behind us was a group of four women who were very impressed with David's command of Basque -- at least that is what he told me. At the table beside us was a group of five couples. The men of the group were celebrating their 50th graduation anniversary from Yale Law School. We exchanged stories and finally our food came. Dad was disadvantaged in that he was sitting at the corner farthest away from the action and for all of you who know Tom Edwards, that wasn't going to last. One of the group of lawyers came over to talk to us and Dad introduced Mum as his first wife. The man smiled and said that he was celebrating his 7th wedding anniversary with his 2nd wife and that if he was still with his 1st wife he would be in jail for murder -- with the proviso that if the jury had met his 1st wife he would have been acquitted on compassionate grounds. Everybody laughed. Dad was not going to be outdone so he stood up quickly to respond with a better comeback only to smack his forehead into a 400-year old 2-foot solid oak beam.

The blood started to run, dad became very pale. The table behind us put ice from their wine bucket into a napkin. The staff ignored everything. And we all sat for a moment taking stock. The same man came back with his cell phone in one hand and his card in the other and said, "I can't help it, I'm a lawyer, if you have headaches in six months call me."

So other than the torrential rains, low-hung beams, and sandwiches in hotel rooms, I think my parents enjoyed their visit. Funny though, they haven't suggested going back!!!

**Rachel Edwards.**

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### **"An Evening of Song" ~ "Noson O Gân"**

Enjoy "An Evening of Song" Concert ~ "Noson O Gân" featuring the **Llanelli Male Choir** visiting from Wales and the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir on returning from their performance at Carnegie Hall. Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm at Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen Street, Toronto, M5C 2Z3 ~ Tickets: \$25.00  
[www.ticketbreak.com](http://www.ticketbreak.com) or phone 416-410-2254 or Bonnie Booth 416-443-9737.

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### **Thank You---Diolch.**

A special thanks to Viktoria Di Pietro from Starbucks for donating the coffee served at the Spring bazaar, and to Reg for helping in the setup.

*Thank you, Jeanette Roberts*

### **Let's Hear It for Our Knitters.**

*Recently, approximately 100 lap robes and small blankets have been donated to Carefree Lodge Seniors Home and North York Women's and Children's Abuse Centre.*

*Thanks to the talented ladies who have worked so diligently---Anne Boswell, Rita Hoffman, Jean MacRae and Nancy Jones. The items were greatly appreciated and will be used with the love that came with them.*

**Catherine Otley. Catherine always welcomes new knitters to the team.**

**Have a great Summer and be safe, bring me plenty of news for September 14<sup>th</sup>. Diolch. M.**

**[myfanwy@rogers.co](mailto:myfanwy@rogers.co) 34 Carrington Drive. Richmond Hill. Ontario. L4C 8A2, 905 737 4399.**

**Sunday morning services are at 11.00 am every Sunday. The next Welsh language service is on September 7th at 7.00 pm.**