



A Note From the Editor

Judging by reader response, the first issue of the revived *Chicago Dragon* has been a wonderful success. Many thanks to our members for their words of encouragement. Your support is greatly appreciated.

One of our goals is to be an interactive newsletter, and to that end I invite readers to submit articles of 'Welsh interest' for publication. Please bear in mind that space is limited, therefore concise editorials are more appropriate. But hey, why not join us at any, or all of Cambrian's forthcoming events, where we can discuss Welsh happenings to our hearts content. I already sense from the articles submitted that Wales is a country on the rise. Y Ddraig Goch Ddryr Gychwyn.

Mandy Meehan Editor-in-Chief

What's On Next!

Cambrian Welsh Picnic

July 16th Noon - 4 Maple Park. (South of the Eisenhower, on Harlem.) Bring your own lunch. Races and games for kids. Prizes! Ice cream and drinks provided. Contact: Gwilym 847/991-0870

Annual Celtic Festival

September 17 & 18th Grant Park, Chic. IL. Join Cambrian for a weekend of Celtic festivities. Visit our Welsh booth, and also learn about different Gaelic cultures.

Chicago Gymanfa Ganu IL.

This year's Gymanfu will be held in the fall. Location and date to be announced.

Cambria Gymanfu Ganu WI.

October 9th 2.30 - 6.00pm
First Presbyterian Church, Cambria, WI. Contact: Tom Williams, 920/348-5746

Cambrian's Website:

www.chicagowelshcambrian.com
For suggestions please contact Kris
Kris@chicagowelshcambrian.com

Tribute to Gwynfor Evans

One of Wales' greatest heroes died at the age of 92 on April 21, 2005. Above all Gwynfor Evans believed in the idea of Wales as a political entity - not a historical relic. This thought is expressed in his book, "Fighting for Wales," which could well describe his life's mission. He was also the author of many other books on Wales, both in Welsh and English.

He believed in the preservation and growth of the Welsh language and its culture. In 1980, when the Conservative government sought to renege on a promise to establish a Welsh language television station Gwynfor dedicated himself to a hunger strike that resulted in a policy change, and the eventual establishment of the Welsh station S4C, in 1984. Today S4C, helps lead the way for the growing number of Welsh learners with its shows and educational materials.

He was a political leader, who helped turn Plaid Cymry (The Welsh Party) into a political force that represents the people of Wales, and also other nationalities. In 1966, he was the first member of Plaid Cymry to win a seat in Parliament. From this modest start, he was able to see the start of the Welsh Assembly in 1997. Not all his political campaigns were victories, but the party is vibrant and growing. His grandson, Mabon ap Gwynfor, is standing for the Party in the current election. The president of Plaid Cymry, the businessman/minister/folksinger, Dafydd Iwan, has said that Gwynfor will always be the Party's "spiritual leader."

In reading the tributes in the Welsh media, one can also see that his emphasis was on the character and spirit of the people of Wales. An old friend said of him. He believed very strongly there was no use in making enemies." An approach that seems to have been discarded in many places today. For more information visit: (www.100welshheroes.com) The wacky thing is that Gwynfor came in # 4, but Tom Jones came in # 3!!!

By Chris Jones Wheaton, IL.

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Katherine Jenkins - Wales' Rising Star

On Sunday April 17th I had the unexpected pleasure of attending a concert at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall in Evanston featuring the young Welsh classical singer, Katherine Jenkins. She is a delightful young woman with a wonderful stage presence and an absolutely amazing voice. This was her first tour of the USA and she seemed just as thrilled to be there as we were to listen to her. After the concert Katherine stood in the foyer in her tangerine chiffon ball gown smiling and shaking hands with all the concertgoers. She answered questions about her background and meteoric rise to fame in less than two years. Her first CD, 'Premiere' went straight to the top of the classical charts in Britain and stayed there for eight weeks. She is currently promoting a second CD entitled 'La Diva' (called 'Second Nature' in the UK). Ms. Jenkins is a native of Neath, South Wales and trained at the Royal College of Music in London after many years of singing in a local church choir and taking part in Urdd competitions. She has won numerous awards in Wales and sang recently at some of the Six Nations Rugby matches, no doubt spurring them on to their grand victory! If you have an opportunity to see her in person I highly recommend it and I would also urge you to visit her website for further information. (www.katherinejenkins.com). She is a true asset to Wales and could well be as important an ambassador for us as Bryn Terfel.

By Dilys W. Rana Wilmette, IL.

Katherine Jenkins



The Cambrian Benevolent Society - St. David's Day 2005

The Cambrian Benevolent Society of Chicago held its 152nd Celebration of St. David, Patron Saint of Wales, on Sunday February 27, 2005, at The Elmcrest, in Elmwood Park, IL. Cambrian President, Connie Huber, welcomed the seventy guests and presented historical information about Dewi Sant; Rev. David Williams gave the Invocation. Our delightful lunch started with Artichoke Florentine soup, followed by a tossed salad, Breast of Chicken Vesuvio with potato and vegetables, Roast Sirloin of Beef, rolls and beverages. For dessert, Chocolate French Vanilla Cake Roll was served.

To begin the program, the "Cor Cambrian Singers", directed by Gwilym Williams and Chris Jones, led the group in singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and several Welsh hymns. This group of "volunteers" did such a fine job that they will be featured in future programs!! Mrs. David Jones gave the Prayer of St. David in both Welsh and English.

Each year, Cambrian presents the St. David Award to someone in our community who has made outstanding contributions to the furthering of Welsh culture in our area and who has promoted and fostered Welsh activities. The award was given this year to Larry Williams, long-time President of The Chicago Gymanfa Ganu Society. This year's Gymanfa will be held in the Fall, and the Chicago-area Welsh community is looking forward to this favorite time of singing and fellowship.

Our special program featured Cynthia Shelhart, an outstanding harpist from northern Indiana. She played many familiar Welsh airs, hymn tunes, and folk songs. The group joined in singing "Ar Hyd Y Nos". The program closed with "Cor Cambrian" and Cynthia leading us in enthusiastically singing "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau".

By Barbara M. Jones Secretary Chic. IL

The Chicago Dragon

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Mark your calendars for
Cambrian's newest and
Most exciting venture
Welsh Heritage Day
October 1st
19th Century Club
178 Forest Avenue
Oak Park, IL
Meet fellow Welshmen
and discover the,
traditions, spirit and
flavors of Wales.

To Volunteer your time
And ideas contact Chris:
chjajones@sbcglobal.net

For so long Welsh Rugby had
threatened a revival of its former
glory days, but many doubted if the
Welsh could pull it off. Peidiwch a
becso bois.

(No worries mate.) Having beaten
England 11-09, Italy 08-38, France
18-24, and Scotland 22-46, it all
came to a head on a sensational
Saturday at Cardiff Arms Park,
where Wales spectacular defeat
over Ireland 20-32, made this
Wales' first Grand Slam victory
since 1978. Oh yes - Welsh
rugby is definitely back on the map!
Marina Meehan Chic. IL
Gwent, Wales.

God Be With You

God be with you till we meet again;
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again
Till we met

Till we met at Jesus feet...
God be with you till we meet again.

A blessing by
Jeremiah E. Rankin (1882)

In memory of an outstanding Friend
Past Editor of the Chicago Dragon,
Former Cambrian Board Member,
Bob Williams (River Forest.)
You will be missed.

Marina Meehan