

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

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Message from the Minister..... Neges y Gweinidog.

The arrangements for the 2007 celebrations are well under way at Dewi Sant, with many of the members eagerly working on various projects that will make the coming year a busy one as well as unforgettable for all the right reasons.

One of the recent occurrences has been a steady flow of memorabilia from the history of the Church, not only in photographs but also in the increased number of people who love to relate stories about special events that have taken place here on Melrose Avenue and in Clinton Street. There is no doubt that the Church has had a lasting impression and influence upon generations of worshippers here in Toronto.

As I listen to the stories I am constantly moved to ponder upon the influences that have shaped my personality. The obvious ones are clear to see, my family when I was a child, my wife in my adult years, the place where I lived and the people who have been friends and mentors on this journey of life. Not to mention my religion and my God. But there are so many other influences that I could mention. Here are one or two.

Music has greatly influenced me. I was brought up on a diet of hymn singing, which gave me a taste for the simpler form of music which can be sung by everyone, whether they have an aptitude or not. All one needs to appreciate such music is a need to enjoy. I was then influenced, as a teenager, by the music of the 'pop culture' of the 60's and 70's. Groups such as the Beatles, The Beach Boys, then later ABBA, Elton John, Edward H, Dafydd Iwan and Rod Stewart became my regular intake of culture and influence. A far cry from the hymns, and not separated from each other as I was 'into' all the forms of rhythm, although they were so different in many ways. As I grow older (notice the term 'oldER') I learn to appreciate the classics more and more, especially as a way to relax.

I have also been influenced by the words of songs. Some of the lyrics in modern songs seem to be repetitive and, on the whole, meaningless. Not so four decades ago, when lines of poetry ended in real rhyme, and what is more when their messages were profound. Let me give you one example – from a Beatles song. 'Life is very short, and there's no time for fussing and fighting, my friend.' I wonder how many people would agree that those words are SO true, and speak directly to them. As the years pass we come to realize that time is so precious that we cannot and should not waste it in acts that separate and divide, as individuals or on community and national and international levels. How about letting those simple words

from the Beatles' song influence us to change our attitude to those we have refused to reconcile with, for reasons we cannot even remember. Yes, life is too short to let us waste it on hatred and division. Let us work together, because there is no second chance if we get it wrong the first time around.
Bob bendith. Blessings, Deian.

UCW-----Merched yr Eglwys.
Step into Spring with the UCW Spring Bazaar!

The UCW is planning a Spring Bazaar on Saturday, May 27th. Please mark this date on your calendar. In the meantime, please help us in making this event a success by contributing what you can to the bazaar. We are looking for baking, crafts, knitting and sewing as well as treasures, gently used clothing, books and Welsh items. This year, due to space constraints, we are not planning a White Elephant table.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Bazaar Coordinator Sheryl Clay.

Penny Auction April 24th 7.30pm

Ontario Welsh Festival, Stratford, April 28 - 30

If the number of emails we are receiving from its conductor are anything to judge by, then Cor Cymes Pontarddulais is more than ready for its first visit to Canada. Their excitement is palpable, even electronically! And, of course, Dewi Sant's own Sheryl Clay will be their guest soloist.

We hope that you have already registered for the weekend and signed up for the various activities. Don't forget the seminar on Saturday afternoon at 2 PM when we will learn about Welsh characters in Shakespearian plays. Myfanwy Bajaj wants your participation in both the Noson Lawen on Friday evening and the poetry reading at 3 PM on Saturday. 905 737 4399

Would you like to bring your young children or grandchildren with you? There will be an hour of children's activities on Saturday morning and they may also participate in the Noson Lawen.

The banquet menu offers a choice of turkey or salmon. You will barely have time to then get ready for the concert at Parkview United church - just a stone's throw from the Arden Park Hotel.

Sunday will be the pinnacle of the weekend with two Cymanfa sessions, conducted by Ifor Miles, Pontarddulais.

For more details about the weekend check our website at Ontariowelshfestival.ca or call Mable Hastings at 416-730-8658

Hefina Phillips

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These verses were found by Gwen Evans in an old autograph book that she had years ago.

To be born Welsh
Is to be born privileged.
Not with a silver spoon
In your mouth,
But music in your blood
And poetry in your soul.

Build for yourself a strong box,
Fashion each part with care,
Fit it with a chain and padlock,
Hide all your worries there.
Put all your failures within it
As each little cup you quaff,
Pack all your troubles in it,
Then sit on the lid and laugh. - January 1951

Ysgrifennu mae'ch cyfeillion
Yn eich albwm waith eu llaw.
Edrych drwyddo ddwg atgofion
Ichwi mhen blynyddoedd ddaw.
Troi dalennau, gweld eu henwau,
Yn y llyfr ar gael o hyd,
Prin y gallech pe dymunech
Eu galw heddiw oll ynghyd. - How true!
Pob hwyl, Gwen Evans.

Kitchen Corner-----Cornel Fach Y Gegin.

Lamb Shanks Braised in Guinness.

6 lamb shanks (trim fat off) salt & pepper to taste (approx 1 tsp salt & 1/2 tsp pepper) , ¼ cup flour,

**olive oil (2-4 tablespoons, to fry shanks, I add a bit of butter as well) ¾ onions, chopped
4 cloves garlic, chopped, 1 tsp dried thyme leaves, 2 tbsp tomato paste, ½ cup beef stock
Can of Guinness, or other dark stout/beer/wine (approx 1½ cups)**

Method.

Combine flour, salt & pepper. Lightly coat shanks, and brown in frying pan. Transfer to slow cooker or casserole. Add onions to pan, cook until softened, add garlic, thyme, and any remaining flour. Cook for one minute.

Add stock and Guinness, cook and stir until mixture thickens. Pour over shanks.

Cook in slow cooker, or in slow oven (200), all day (well, between 6 to 10 hours, as shanks do vary in size)

Note: As there may be a fair bit of fat , even after trimming, I often cook them the day before, leave in the fridge overnight, then scrape the fat off the top the next day, and re-heat.

Mairwen Thornley.

The Rich Coast.--- Part One.

It was the middle of the night after choir practice that the bus came to take us to the airport, destination - San Jose, Costa Rica, via Miami. With the 1 hour time difference, it was mid afternoon when we arrived. So far-----so good. Only a minor hitch at U S customs. I had taken an apple with me to eat on board for breakfast, but I was pulled aside for trying to import foodstuff into the USA. I offered to eat it there and then, but was told gruffly that I wasn't in a restaurant, and was made to throw it away. I could have bought the same apple in a food court further in the airport!

Costa Rica means "rich coast". Christopher Columbus found sanctuary here following a storm, on his 4th and final journey in 1502. It is said that he encountered natives wearing gold discs and spoke of abundant gold, hence the term Costa Rica. Others believe the name refers to the lush greenery of the land itself. It has a population of 4 million, and an area of 52000 square km. (twice the size of Wales – 21000 sq km). It has no standing army, the military was abolished in 1949. Tourism earns more foreign exchange than bananas and coffee combined!

The only thing, other than the flight, that I had arranged in advance, was a rental car, which was waiting for me at the airport. It was, according to the car rental official, a straight forward 10 Km. drive to Ciudad Colon, the town where our daughter Lauren was living. "First right at the lights, and follow the signs." My first insight into Costa Rica! How I ever found Ciudad Colon, with only once taking a wrong turn, is a miracle!

Addresses in C.R. are a little different too. Lauren's is, in Spanish, "the yellow house across the road from the swimming pool"! I had to ask directions. However, I had learnt some Spanish quickly, on the way into Ciudad Colon – "No Hay Pasa" means "No entry, one way street!"

The rest of the day was spent on a guided tour of the University for Peace, where Lauren was pursuing her post graduate studies. The campus is located 6 Km further up the mountain, picturesquely situated amongst the coffee plantations, overlooking the capital city, San Jose. The mission of the university, UPEACE, entrusted to it by the United Nations General Assembly, is to "provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace, with the aim of promoting among all human beings a spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples, and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the charter of the United Nations."

After breakfast, all 3 of us left and headed up country in a north westerly direction, towards the largest active volcano in C.R. and the second largest active volcano in the world. Gradually the roads reduced in size and quality as we climbed towards Arenal. Fifteen km north of San Ramon, on the road to Ciudad Quesada, known locally as San Carlos, is the small town of Zarcero. In front of the picturesque church there are a great number of modeled cypress topiaries fashioned by a local landscape artist into unusual shapes, such as a monkey on a motorcycle. Although the road condition was "challenging", the scenery, including misty rainforests and views of the Central Valley, is stunning.

After lunch at San Carlos we reached the small community of La Fortuna, at the foot of the massive Volcan Arenal. Unfortunately cloud obscured the volcano. Before the 1968 eruption, La Fortuna was a sleepy farming town, but has since developed into a tourist centre for volcano watchers, and a centre for other tourist attractions such as waterfalls, hanging bridges, bird watching, nature preserves and white water rafting.

We carried on along a dirt road for another 10kms or so, to the Arenal Observatory Lodge, and booked in for the night, hoping the weather would clear and that the rain would stop. Well, it didn't. We were not to see the famous lava flows under a clear starry sky, and by morning the cloud cover was even lower! There had been so much rain overnight that I was afraid that we would be marooned, but a hotel employee told me that he had driven in that morning with no trouble, managing to cross the two fords, and maneuver through the muddy road.

100 people had perished in the 1968 eruption, and when the volcano erupted again in 1998, La Fortuna was evacuated, but there were no casualties.

Unlike Patagonia and even South Africa, finding Welsh connections in Costa Rica proved to be a little more difficult. However, on the road into La Fortuna, there was a car mechanic's shop with a large red dragon logo. Whether there was a connection with Wales or not, I don't know. I did see advertisements for a dentist, John Williams, and a Neurosurgeon Teodoro Evans, in San Jose, surely there must be some connection with Wales, however distant.

In the 1970's two or three American Vulcanologists bought an abandoned cattle farm, and converted it into an observatory, and slowly expanded it into an ecologically friendly hotel allowing only a limited number of guests. The apparatus for monitoring seismic activity is still there and functional. At breakfast we observed a number of strange birds and animals being fed fruit by hotel staff, including a "pizote", a raccoon-like animal.

Since we were clearly not going to see the volcano any time soon, we headed off down the dirt road to the tarred road, and after consultation with a guard at the entry, we headed west rather than back to La Fortuna. It was my impression, though my Spanish is meager, that there was a road around Lake Arenal, although it didn't show on any of my maps.

The lake was formed as a hydro-electric power source, the dam was built in 1973, resulting in the largest body of water in C.R. (125 sq kms.). The west end of the lake is the windiest spot in the country, regularly battered by winds from the Caribbean, making it a good spot for wind-surfing and for a windmill farm. Nearby is the town of Tilaran, and from there we went to Canas, Liberia, finally reaching the Pacific at Playa Hermosa.

We had left the rainforest and lush green highlands, and reached the flat, rather arid, Guanacaste province, named after the large shade tree typical of the region. There's plenty here for the tourist. Any number of beaches, National Parks, volcanoes, etc. can be found. This is cowboy country, opened up originally for cattle ranching. It was here in 1856 that the Costa Ricans defeated the invading mercenary army of American, William Walker.

There was "no room at the inn" at our first choice of hotel in Playa Hermosa, taken from the tour book. A short walk along the beach brought us to a small hotel, which had vacancies. However, access by car was barred, and there was no bell to ring. The 6-roomed hotel was owned by a Chilean lady living in New York. The appointed manager, a recent graduate of Hotel Management, and also Chilean, had become ill with Dengue Fever, a mosquito-borne illness, endemic to the area, though fortunately not common. He was about to return home, and his temporary replacement wasn't pushing the publicity thing. One other room was occupied the first night we were there, but thereafter, we were the only guests. I don't include the family of iguanas living on the roof! These are the size of an average cat. We spent a couple of days here, lounging on the beach, enjoying food from a variety of excellent restaurants.

On the final afternoon, we followed the interim manager, his girlfriend, and the recovering manager, to a secluded beach, Matapalo beach, for snorkeling, harpoon fishing, swimming, and on the way home, a ride in the canopy amongst the howler monkeys (for the younger members of the group!)

We visited a beach just to the north, Playa Panama, and had a drink at a beachside restaurant owned by an expatriate Englishman, who had owned several similar establishments in various countries, and, it seems, had as many ex-wives! His next stop he says is the Phillipines.

Our next port of call was Tamarindo, known by the younger set for its nightlife.

To reach there, we traveled off the beaten track, but got to see a number of beautiful beaches, Playa del Coco, Ocotal, Potrero, Flamingo, and Brasalito, before reaching Tamarindo. We stayed at the Witches Rock Surf Hotel, which has a surfing school, surfboard rental, and lessons, for those that needed. Naturally, the hotel was on the beach, and since it catered to the younger client, it was moderately priced. As for the nightlife, you'll have to ask my daughter.

After a couple of days at the North Pacific Coast, we headed back towards San Jose and Ciudad Colon. This time, the road surface was good, but traveling was slow because of all the trucks and the hilly terrain after leaving the Nicoya peninsula and Guanacaste province. It was on this road that I was stopped by traffic police. It didn't feel like I was speeding (yes, yes I know!), but I was told in no uncertain terms that the speed limit was 80kmh, 60kmh through inhabited areas, and 40kmh at intersections, this all in Spanish. Still smiling, the policeman told me the fine was C30,000.00, about U\$60.00. He also told me that it would be cheaper if I paid him, than if I paid the fine at a bank! I told him I didn't have that much cash, so he graciously let me off with a warning. I suspect that this is a lucrative source of income for these guys from unsuspecting tourists.

From our H.Q. in Ciudad Colon we set off early the next morning northward into the mountains to see the Poas Volcano. This time we were more successful. We found our way there without too many setbacks, passing coffee fields, patches of forest, pastures and fern farms. The higher altitudes are too

cold for coffee, but there are flower farms, strawberry patches and cow pastures. This time the weather co-operated, despite the 8,800 ft altitude. The crater is one of the largest active craters in the world, almost 11/2 Km in diameter, and 1000 ft deep. It is predominantly grey in colour and devoid of vegetation. There are a number of fumaroles spewing hot gases, but we did not get to see the geyser in action. The last eruption was in 1953, but the next one is due any day. The park is evacuated at the first sign of a potential eruption. There is a trail which leads through shrub and dwarf trees to an eerie lake, Laguna Botos, an extinct volcanic crater filled with rain water, but too acidic to support life.

Dr. Steven Jones.

Follow up to Pack Rat.

I thought I would share this snippet of information with you.

Recently, my mother was reading the article I had submitted to the Gadwyn in January. Whilst she was reading it, she had a visitor call on her. Her visitor was Mr Delwyn Tibbott, a deacon at the chapel my mother attends. She must have told him what she was reading, because it became apparent that Mr Tibbott had visited Patagonia in the fall of 2004, during the annual eisteddfod. Not only that, but he was related to both Rini and Bila Griffiths, who I had met on my journey there. He had also visited the farm, "Llain Las", central to the theme of my previous article.

In his e-mail to me, he described his party's visit to Llain Las during a tour of the Welsh chapels in the Chubut Valley. His primary interest was with "Nel Fach y Bwcs", and with the farm house itself.

He had known of Rini and her sister, Elda, before going to Patagonia, but unfortunately he was not one of his party chosen to stay with either of them in Esquel. However, when they returned to Trelew, for the eisteddfod, they met not only the two sisters, Rini, who sang in the Esquel choir, and Elda, who conducted the choir, but also several other relatives.

After the gymanfa, the tradition is to have an "asado" or a BBQ. It was here that Elda found Bila (her aunt) and Elfed (her uncle), as well as a cousin from Comodoro Rivadavia, a town about 4 hours south by bus. He, that is Mr Tibbott, also met 2 relatives from Meirionethshire, Wales, who happened to be visiting Patagonia with a different party. As I understand, these were also newly found relatives.

Mr Tibbott also sent me a "Family Tree" outlining the inter-relationships. I noticed that one relative on the tree, was Rhiannon Evans, widow of probably the greatest Welshman of the 20th century, Gwynfor Evans. Her picture featured in the latest edition of "Ninnau", informing readers of her death only 8 months after her husband's passing. Isn't it funny that my mother knew Rhiannon years ago, when they were both young and single, and attended the same chapel in Liverpool, as ex-patriates before the 2nd World War! A small world indeed!

One of the British national daily newspapers is asking readers "what it means to be British?". "Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then traveling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV. And the most British thing of all? Suspicion of anything foreign".

Meirion Robinson . Porthgain.

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West-Gas said, "We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used during the explosion that destroyed his house. Daily Telegraph.

Eisteddfod at the Festival of Wales 2006 Cincinnati. Ohio.

This is to remind the Welsh community of the eisteddfod in the Festival of Wales being held in Cincinnati, Labor Day weekend. The committee has been working very hard to organize the eisteddfod and we are very pleased to offer a wide range of categories again this year. As a result, there is bound to be a category that will interest you!

What about entering the recitation competition? There is a category for under 12 years (in English), under 18 (either in Welsh or English) and for adults (again either in Welsh or in English). Too nervous to recite alone? What about forming a group with a few friends or family members to compete in the choral recitation? There will be a solo voice competition for amateurs (under 12, under 18 and adults). There is also a solo competition for semi-professional singers and the prize for this category is an all-expenses paid trip to Wales to compete in the National Eisteddfod. There is a competition for vocal ensembles (6 or less people), and for choirs. For the over 60s there will be a Senior Hymn singing competition, solo, duet or quartet. There will also be an instrumental solo and instrumental ensemble competition. A new addition this year is Welsh Folk Dancing and we hope it will attract a number of entrants.

Are you a budding (or established) writer in either English or Welsh? There is an opportunity for all ages to show their skills in prose or poetry. Perhaps you love to tell stories. There is a category just for you. Complete details of all the categories and the application forms are now available on the net at www.nafow.org

Entries must be received by June 16th.

The Eisteddfod will take place as part of the Festival of Wales in the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel. The sessions are planned for the mornings of Friday, September 1st. and Saturday, September 2nd.

If you need any more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with us by sending a note to our e-mail address eisteddfod2006@yahoo.ca or by phoning Hefina Phillips at 905-847-5474 .

Hoping to hear from you all!

The Welsh Connection

This newly formed organization met for the second time on February 28th and, judging by the noise level, a great time was had by one and all. The purpose of The Welsh Connection is to bring together people of Welsh heritage and we especially welcome those with no prior affiliations to existing Welsh groups in the GTA. It is the first step towards getting to know those purportedly 45,000 Welsh people in the GTA!

As February 28 is as close as one can get to March 1st, we drank a toast (alcoholic) to Dewi Sant. I always find this rather ironic as Dewi is supposed to have been a total abstainer! Bass baritone Jason Howard led us in a roof-raising rendition of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. The bar staff of The Duke of York pub had never heard anything like it, apparently.

The next meeting will be at 6.30, Tuesday March 28, again at the Duke of York Pub on Prince Arthur in the Annex area of the city. If you are of Welsh heritage and would like to attend, please email Peter Williams at peterhaigwilliams@yahoo.com or Hefina Phillips at hefinap@aol.com

It was great to see so many at the second meeting of the Welsh Connection. We obviously made a remarkable impression with our singing because when I spoke to my contact at the Duke of York pub the following day, the adjective that she used was "sensational"!! The barman told my son that he had never heard anything like it. (I assume that is a compliment!)

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28, same place same time. Menu details later. Please email Peter Williams at peterhaigwilliams@yahoo.com or Hefina Phillips at hefinap@aol.com if you would like to attend.

Please spread the news about our organization which is open to anyone with a Welsh connection.

Hefina Phillips.

TORONTO WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

Wednesday May 3, 2006 @ 7:30 p.m.

**MacMillan Theatre, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park
@ Museum Subway, Tickets \$25.00, General Admission
For tickets call 416-410-2254, Email info@twmvc.com
Tickets are available on the day of performance from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
at MacMillan Theatre Box Office**

Thank You.-----Diolch Yn Fawr.

My family and I would like to thank each and every one for all the lovely Get Well cards and beautiful flowers that we have received during my illness. It is uplifting to know that I am in your thoughts at this difficult time. I have now received two of my projected chemotherapy treatments, given at three weekly intervals, with four more to go. So far, I have had encouraging results from these treatments.

Although I miss coming to church very much, I do keep in touch with Rev. Deian throughout the week. Your prayers are important to my recovery, and I feel positive in my return to good health. Thank you Deian for your encouragement and prayers. I am hoping to be well enough to join you all in Stratford for the OGGGA in April. My family and I thank you all sincerely for your love and friendship.

Lorna Hobbs.

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I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those members of Dewi Sant who sent cards, e-mails and phone calls following the death of my daughter Fiona. I would particularly wish to express thanks to everyone who attended at the funeral home and also at the service and for Rev. Deian's appropriate words. The singing at the service really gave me the strength to deal with what was an unimaginable situation and the support and encouragement and visits from Rev. Deian Evans and Rev. Cerwyn Davies, both to my daughter and myself were very gratefully appreciated. I know that this made my daughter's final days bearable and was a much needed inspiration for her spirit. Thanks again to everyone.

Clarice D. Terry

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Congratulations

Ashley Terry was in a competition with her squadron in the Navy League Cadets on Saturday March 4. She was the Team Captain for both Drill and Seamanship and both teams placed first. Ashley was also awarded two medals for the best Team Captain, scoring 100% in both rounds of competition. The teams now go on for the Provincial Competition at the end of April.

Letters to the Editor.

Last week Geraint and Rose Roberts from Peterborough and I visited Richard Trefor Jones (originally from Caernarvon) who lives with his son in Aurora. He celebrated his 95th. birthday this month and is as sharp as a whip! During my chats with him over the past couple of years I have learnt a lot of North Wales history and maintained my Welsh fluency. Could you wish him belated "Penblwydd Hapus" through the Gadwyn? I know he reads it from cover to cover. It ould make his day. We had a nice chat at the Gymanfa Ganu last year!! Pob hwyl a dymuniadau da ar ddiwrnod Gwyl Dewi a'r Gymanfa yn Stratford, which sadly I can't attend this year.

Gwen Evans, Whitby

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Just writing to say Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus from Adrian and Sheriden Thomas and family, from Clydach, S. Wales. Thought you might like to know that St. Davids Day is being celebrated in Euro Disney Paris, France this year and Welsh schools are contributing to this festival, including our son Rhys Thomas who is part of the school choir at Bryntawe (the new Welsh comprehensive at Swansea).

We won't mention the Wales V's England game... we'll focus on the Scottish game instead! The big news at present is the resignation of Mike Ruddock which is causing lots of media coverage. Glad to see Hefina is recovering.

Hwyl Fawr Cariad, Sheriden Thomas

adrianthomas300@btinternet.com

The Great Little Trains of Wales

Anyone planning a trip to Wales should consider a visit to some of the narrow gauge railways that are still in operation, mostly in north Wales. These railways were built in the latter part of the 19th century, mainly to serve the slate industry. Because of the mountainous terrain in north Wales, most of the lines were built to a narrow gauge, rather than the standard railway gauge of 4 feet, 8 ½ inches.

As the slate industry declined after the 2nd world war, many of the narrow gauge lines became derelict and were abandoned. Some however were saved by groups of rail fans and operated as tourist attractions. Eight of the railways formed a joint marketing group, under the title "Great Little Trains of Wales". They have a web site: gltw.co.uk, which gives some information on joint tickets and also provides links to the individual railways.

Two of the lines, the BALA LAKE Rly. and the BRECON Mountain Rly. are laid on former standard gauge lines, closed by British Railways. The latter is the only line in southern Wales, being based at Pant, near Merthyr Tydfil. Perhaps the best known line is the TAL-Y-LLYN Rly. which was the first of the preserved lines and they can boast that they never closed.

At the moment, the longest line at over 13 miles, is the FFESTINIOG Rly. but the WELSH HIGHLAND Rly will be longer, when it is completed. The WELSHPOOL & LLANFAIR Rly. was built to narrow gauge for cheapness of construction. The VALE OF RHEIDOL line was unusual in that it was the only n/g passenger carrying line, operated by British Railways. The LLANBERIS LAKE Rly. makes up the total of eight lines.

In addition to the lines that make up the G.L.T.W. there are others also worth visiting. The SNOWDON MOUNTAIN is Britain's only cog railway. The FAIRBOURNE & BARMOUTH is really a miniature railway rather than a true narrow gauge line. The CORRIS Rly. near Machynlleth is in the early days of reconstructions, but they welcome visitors on their open days.

All lines have facilities for visitors, including parking, restaurants and snack bars. The FFESTINIOG Rly even boasts a dinner train. Some will teach you to drive a steam train in the off season. They all have souvenir shops where you can buy books and other memoirs of your visit. So non your next visit to Wales, get plenty of film then jump in the car and enjoy the Great Little Trains of Wales!

Hadrian Evans, Vernon, B.C.

A Welsh Interlude

October 2005 found me in Wales, where I spent a long weekend with friends in Pencader and Llanbedr Pont Steffan. It's always a great joy to be in "Gwlad y Gan," however briefly. On Friday my sister and I were treated to lunch at Morgan's chip shop, Carmartheon – lovely grub! I burst into impromptu song. I had just recalled the tune to "Awel Deg", which had been eluding me. My sister was ready to slide under the table with embarrassment. "Wel" I said, "if you can't sing in public in Wales then where can you?"

Saturday afternoon was spent in pretty little Aberaeron, with honey ice-cream on the sea front. The weather was glorious, sunny and warm with no jackets needed!

On Sunday afternoon I was taken to sing at a Seniors Nursing Home near Llanbed. No accompaniment, but I managed to get through "Calon Lan" with the help of a lovely soprano who happened to be visiting her mother. (She had with her a sweet little dog, who stared at me in astonishment as soon as I opened my mouth – whether from admiration or horror – I couldn't tell!) "Perhaps Love" followed.. They were most appreciative. All the residents were ladies, one of them had been a friend of the late Glyn Roberts of Toronto. He used to play the organ at Dewi Sant. The male residents, I was told were all sleeping downstairs and it was only later that I wondered whether downstairs meant in the building, or could it have been some typically Welsh poetic metaphor for something deeper?

While in Pencader we were shown the movie taken in 1990 of Llanpumsaint mixed choir when they performed at The Metro Toronto Caravan. Dewi Sant was featured, as was the Noson Lawen at the Legion Hall. Merched Dewi also appeared briefly. I saw many "Toronto Welsh" faces that are now familiar to me.

After my brief but full visit to West Wales I returned home to West Yorkshire, before my return to Toronto. With luck I'll be back in 2007. Better start working on my repertoire now!

Joan E. Humphrey

P.S. I would be pleased if anyone knows where I can obtain the score of "Awel Deg."

Friends.

People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person. When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually they may seem like a godsend and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and now it is time to move on. Some people come into your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it, it is real. But only for a season. LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant. Thank you for being a part of my life, whether you were a reason, a season or a lifetime. (Pass to your friends} June O Donnell. Thornhill.

Donors to Y Gadwyn.

Marie Hillier, Megan Little, Ellen Fitzgibbon, Marg Walker, Joan e Humphrey, Megan McEwan. Tony & Marjorie Williams, Harry Williams, Brian & Joan Hughes, Hywel Hughes, David Jones, Nancy Jones, Ifor & Sybil Pugh, Alyce Roberts, Rick Owen, Kate & Bruce Cherrett, Fred & Kathy Morgan, Edward Morgan now of Pontardawe, wishes all a Happy Saint David's Day and best wishes for a lovely Easter.

**Dewi Sant holds regular services of worship at 11 am every Sunday morning.
Welsh language services are held on the first Sunday of every month at 7.00 pm**

These are the upcoming events to put in you calenders

- April 1st. ----- O.P.P Concert. 7.30 Tickets available at the church office or at the door on The night. Refreshments to follow.
- April 14th. * ----- Good Friday Worship Service at 3.30 conducted by Reverend Deian Evans
Dinner at 5.00 pm \$15 pre book if possible. Cymanfa Ganu at 7,00 pm.
- April 16th. * ----- Holy Communion at 9.00 am. Breakfast served at 9.30 am. Regular
Worship 11.00 am.
- May 27th. ----- Spring Bazaar / Sale. UCW Fund Raiser.

From The Editor-----Wrth y Golygydd

Thank you to all the contributors. If you haven't contributed financially yet this year, we would be pleased to hear from you. Postage has gone up again in recent months!

We have seen a few hardships at Dewi Sant recently. Pipes have burst, floors and walkways have been dug up. The final blow came with a burst boiler and a great deal of mopping up. (The famous boiler that Harold Woodey has held together for years.) NB – New furnace is up and running! The property committee, minister, secretary and volunteers including Annette Evans have worked overtime.

Our good wishes go to Wanda Sweet our church secretary. Her husband Ron has been critically ill for many weeks now. She is working under very trying circumstances. Our love and prayers go out to Wanda during this time.

Thank you yet again for travelogues, poems, etc. It makes Y Gadwyn so much more interesting for everyone.

The deadline will come up again on April 16th— (the Easter weekend) myfanwy@rogers.com
905 737 4399.



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