

CAPE CAMBRIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 43

OCTOBER 2009

Interkindred Evening:

Held on 23 October at Vista Nova School, Rondebosch.

The Gathering of the Clans was a huge success. The Flags filled the stage and were draped all around. The tables were decorated with the Colours and Emblems proudly displayed - it all looked very festive.

So many people wanted tickets but unfortunately they were very limited – so it was decided next year to hold the gathering in a larger hall.

We were entertained by the Scottish Pipers, Irish Dancers, the Welsh Choir and of course the MC of the evening.

MEMBER NEWS:

(Welsh Gossip!!)

We all remember Mrs Janet Morgan (Ex. President) of Tyger Valley area – well it seems that she did a bunk (couldn't take any more) and ended up in Deri in Wales, but the Authorities caught up with her (from an anonymous phone call – her son Kerri) but don't tell anyone!! She applied for Diplomatic immunity saying she would be ridiculed and tortured if she was forced back to Capetown, they didn't believe her, thankfully, so the Deri Police picked her up and shipped her back.

Mrs Morgan is now back safe under lock and key and said she enjoyed her sojourn. Welcome back Janet and enjoy the sun and returning to your old job in the SA Foreign Service as a seasoned spy!!

Our Cambrian and Choir friend, Ivan John, is shipping out soon to Australia, his reason are family hireath and the sheep are prettier!! We will miss you come back soon.

A big get well soon to Big Dave Stephens (alias Wenvoe) fell off a ladder last week, so with the combined height of the ladder and his own lengthiness he must have fell about 7metres – hurt his leg and his hand, so he won't (still) be able to get his hand in his pocket to buy a round – get well soon Dai – there's a thirsty summer around the corner!!

CAWS POBI (CHEESE ROASTED) WELSH RAREBIT

Ingredients:

50 gms flour
50 gms butter
200 mls Guinness stout
200 grams strong cheddar
2 tablespoons Worcester sauce
2 level teaspoons dry mustard
pepper to taste

Method:

In a pan, melt the butter and add the flour stirring constantly to avoid burning
Simmer for 2 mins then add the Guinness and mix well.
Remove from heat.

Add cheese, Worcester sauce, mustard and pepper and return to heat. Stir until cheese is melted.

Toast 4 slices of bread and cover one side with cheese mixture, place under grill until Brown and bubbly. Serve
Jilly Bird

Rugby:

Warren Gatland's rant cannot hide real reasons for Wales defeat

Nov 9 2009 by Andy Howell, Western Mail

Wales 12-19 New Zealand

WARREN GATLAND sounded like Sir Alex Ferguson when he launched a rant at the refereeing of Craig Joubert following Wales' 21st Test defeat in a row against New Zealand.

Football managers like Manchester United boss Fergie are notorious for attempting to shift the blame for defeats on to match officials.

But their outbursts often mask the real reason for losses and it was the same when Wales coach Gatland piled into Joubert following a pretty flat, low-key and uninspiring encounter with New Zealand at a sell-out Millennium Stadium.

What Gatland should have been focusing on, and fuming about, were errors such as the failure of the Welsh lineout five metres from the All Blacks try-line in the 79th minute, when replacement hooker Huw Bennett couldn't find fellow sub Bradley Davies with his throw.

It was mistakes like that which cost Wales a potential draw, and Gatland may well in hindsight question why he brought off hooker and Lions star Matthew Rees, who had largely thrown in accurately, especially as it had been a slowish-paced match by international standards.

No matter about the 21st Test defeat (in a row ooH!) against the All Blacks but our mother Country must be on the up!!

Why! Because only a couple of years ago Wales lost to West Samoa (in Cardiff) this year they beat the whole of Samoa – ha!

Stats from the Editor: Survey from Wales:

Question – What did you think of Wales performance against Samoa?

8.4% - one of the worst performances in years

33.5% - very poor – they were lucky to win.

56.1% - good in patches but a lot of mistakes

1.9% - very encouraging performance all round.

Duw its Hard! Its terrible but the whole of Wales must thank the Welsh team for not winning as the whole weekend would have been one long babbalos.

This says it all.

Wales players blow a fuse over state of pitch

Both the All Blacks and Wales wanted the Mill Roof closed but it was left open all week because of a blown fuse.

- *Same as Wales did – blew a fuse.*
 - *Famous saying from Editor about the Reggie singer for the Boks against France.....*
- Again I'll Smoke the Green Green Grass of Home.*

Ianto

Future Events:

28 Nov: St Andrew's, Rondebosh Golf Club, Tickets R95 ea. 19:00 for 19:30. Contact Pat Stephens (021 9825031) to make up a table.

5 Dec: Choir Annual Xmas Dinner – The Mount Restaurant. Tickets: R175 each, 3 Course Meal (Selection). Anybody welcome to partake. Contact Sandy Aherne (021 981 3205).

20 Dec: Carol's by Candlelight Children's Xmas Party. Jacky has kindly offered her home at Blouberg for this year's venue. Slippy Slide for the kids to enjoy. Father Xmas will dish out gifts (supplied by parents, wrapped and labeled). Please bring: Chairs, Umbrella, Table, Drinks, Glasses, Meat, Plate, Cutlery and Candle. Society will supply Salads etc. Donation of R10 to cover cost.

28 Feb 2010: St. David's Service – St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town, 3pm.

6 Mar 2010: St David's Dinner Dance, Mowbray Golf Club.

Choir Corner:

The Choir has received two invites to perform in the London area in 2012. The first is from the Association of Welsh Male Voice Choirs at the Albert Hall on their 25th anniversary concert in March with seven hundred voices. The second is from the London Welsh Male Voice Choir at the Alexandria Palace in July 2012. This special concert involving one thousand voices before an audience of ten thousand is to celebrate the 2012 Olympic Games and involves Choirs from all five continents who will perform together and as single entities. Either concert will be an awe inspiring event.

The Cape Welsh have urgent need to recruit new Choristers into the fold and have decided not to accept any new performances for the next six months to enable a totally new itinerary to be developed and rehearsed.

This is a wonderful opportunity for new members to learn 'off scratch' with the Choir. 'Welsh speaking' is not a requirement to be a member of the Welsh Choir, at present there are only seven Welsh born individuals singing. Nor is the Choir looking for Opera singers, just individuals who have a love for singing and a reasonable singing voice. The camaraderie within the Choir is excellent and well worth an investigation.

Mike Atkins

The Choir has now chosen to opt for the 2012 Albert Hall Concert (March) and not the Olympic Concert (June).

Most of the chosen repertoire is known by the Choir thus eliminating hours of learning new material.

Perhaps invitation may be extended to the Cambrian Society members also.

The British Embassy has extended an official invitation for them to supply 8 Choristers to sing 3 songs at their Children's Charities Grand Ball at the Table Bay Hotel on Saturday 28 November – Tickets R800 each – any takers? It is heartwarming to realize that the Vice Consulate, Mrs Sandra Warne is from Treherbert in the Rhondda and also that the new British High Commissioner is also of Welsh extraction.

Nice to see the British Embassy is of the right thinking in our modern times and using basic Welsh stock to **MAN** their Foreign Offices – 'Tidy'

Ian.

WELSH CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

PLYGAIN

Plygain carols are unique to Wales. 'Plygain' means 'Cockcrow' and referred originally to the dawn service of Mass on Christmas Morning. Many of the carols and songs are very old indeed, and the music is pure polyphonic harmony, and was traditionally sung by men and without accompaniment. Sometimes the service would begin late on Christmas Eve and continue through to morning. Different churches would have their own traditional carols, and it became the tradition that each church would have its special service on a different day, through the twelve days of Christmas, with all the local choirs coming along to sing their particular specialities. The tradition of Plygain singing has continued through to today in some rural areas, such as in Montgomeryshire (where I first came across it) and Merionydd, and elsewhere has been revived.

THE CALENNIG

The Christians who came to Britain with the legions in the 3rd and 4th centuries brought with them many customs from around the Roman Empire. One of these was the giving of Olive Branches as a New Year Peace gift. The original branches always came from the sacred groves of the Roman goddess, Strenia. To give one was a wish for peace and prosperity for the coming year, and a way of saying sorry if you had an old argument or had wronged someone. From this we get the phrase 'To offer an Olive Branch' when we want to say sorry with a gift of some kind.

As Christianity spread its influence, the reason behind the custom was lost, other than it was a symbol of good luck. The custom survived in Wales as the giving of Calennig on the morning of New Year's Day. In some areas, this is an apple, with three twig legs, stuck with almonds, and a small spray of evergreens on top around the stalk, which is handed out by children, who sing a carol, and getting a few pennies in return. Householders put them in their windows, or on a shelf, and sometimes they shrivel but last all year. The 'luck' lasts as long as the Calennig lasts.

When I was quite small, if we were visiting relations in Cardiganshire, my brother and I used to be sent round to all the friends and relations (no doubt warned in advance to expect us), and, provided we sang, and were there before noon, we would be rewarded with sixpence!

Sarah Rowland-Jones

Witty Banter - From The Ebbw Vale RFC website

Pontypridd v Ebbw Vale, 1998

After a string of penalties in Ponty's favour, the referee finally puts his arm up for Ebbw.

Ebbw fan: Thank God for that, ref, I thought you'd had a stroke!

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Newport v Ebbw, Boxing Day 2001

Ebbw fan: Come on 'Port, pass it to a Welshman!

A few minutes later, a wild pass by a Newport player ends up in the crowd.

Ebbw fan: Look! He's found a Welshman!

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Llandovery v Ebbw Vale, January 2001

A Llandovery player limps off injured:

Ebbw fan: Oh no! Who's gonna do the milking in the morning, now?

(Can't wait for the other touchline comments in the next edition (Well done Carl – has anyone guessed he's from Ebbw?))

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Famous Welsh film titles:

9 1/2 Leeks

Trefforest Gump

Cwmando

The Lost Boyos

An American Werewolf in Powys

Huw Dares Gwyneth

Dai Hard

The Wizard of Oswestry

Cool Hand Look-you

Sheepless in Seattle

The Eagle has Llandudno

The Magnificent Severn

Haverfordwest Was Won

Austin Powys

The Magic Rhonddabout

The Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch That Time Forgot

Seven Brides for Seven Sisters

Welsh Connection

Welsh Connection II

The Bridge on the River Wye

Lawrence of Llandovery

A Beautiful Mind-you

The Welsh Patient

The King and Mair

The Sheepshag Redemption

Breakfast at Taffynys

Look Back in Bangor

Evans Can Wait

A Fishguard Called Rhondda

Where Eagles Aberdare

Dial M For Merthyr

(Thanks Carl)

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Any submissions/suggestions for future Newsletters are welcome.