


Mr. Howard Thomas
Chairman, Festival of Wales 2001


Los Gatos
CA 94070

Dear Howard

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I write to congratulate both yourself and your many volunteers for the considerable commitment, enthusiasm and well-organized effort in mounting the successful Festival of Wales 2001 and National Gymanfa Ganu in San Jose August 28 to September 1, 2001.

I know how complicated it is to organize such an event, but you and your group went to the next stage by expanding the event more publicly into the population and back into Wales than has been attempted before. The rewards of that venture were visible in the presence that the Festival had in all of the local media. Also the coup of bringing first minister Rhodri Morgan to San Jose cannot go unrecognized.

The successful execution of that plan certainly helped the transition that the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association has been moving towards over the past couple of years and as you know we had the full support of the Board of Trustees and have officially changed the name of the weekend to the North American Festival of Wales. The San Jose organizing committee therefore can bathe in the kudos that they significantly helped to change the course of the Welsh activities in North America, and I personally thank you all for that. It is a change that has been a long time coming.

So, at your volunteer post-festival party, please convey my very grateful thanks to all of your volunteers, (many of whom regrettably I did not meet), and to your core organizing committee (all of whom Ellis and I met several times) for their excellent and dedicated work in hosting the Festival of Wales. It was an event that will be remembered for a long time and it was historic.

Llongyfarchiadau a Diolch yn fawr iawn

Best regards

Alan Upshall
President

Dr. Idris Evans
██████████ acas Drive
Lafayette
CA 94549

Dear Idris,

On behalf of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, I send my warmest congratulations to the Welsh American Society of Northern California for their excellent successful efforts in organizing the Festival of Wales 2001 and Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu held in San Jose August 28 to September 1. It was an event which will long be remembered not only for the quality of the traditional events, but also for the successful efforts made to present the event to a much wider audience and also to bring the Welsh in North America up to date with developments in Wales.

It also was a historic event in that it set the stage for a significant decision by the board of trustees of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, that being to change the name of the annual occasion from Gymanfa Ganu to North American Welsh Festival. This change has been needed for some time and the occasion and timing were perfect.

I have written to Howard, your Festival Chairman, thanking him and all the volunteers for their very hard work and commitment. The success of the event rests on the shoulders of all of those who became involved and contributed. Many people in your society, including yourself and Lindy, worked very hard. The members of the WNGGA, and the staff of our headquarters are all very appreciative of those considerable efforts.

It was a great pleasure working with you and the team over the last two years, and seeing your plans succeed. The Welsh American Society of Northern California certainly has left its mark.

We all look forward very much to seeing you and your members at future North American festivals of Wales events.

Longyfarchiadia a Diolch yn fawr iawn

Hwyl Fawr

Alan Upshall
President

9/6/2001

Hello all

I write just a short note to thank you all for the work that you put in during the festival in San Jose. Our meetings stretched longer than I had hoped but the distraction of the legal situation was very important to deal with and I believe that we came through well.

In addition to the critique that I asked that we do, I have some other questions: This year we placed our second trustees meeting immediately after the AGM. I thought that it worked well and we completed our meeting on Saturday instead of running over into Sunday. I would appreciate hearing your opinions on this.

Does any one of you or do you know anyone who is good at writing newspaper and publicity articles. We are moving ahead quite fast and someone with good writing skills who can work with us on a regular basis to keep us in the full view of the North American Welsh would be very useful.

I need to report on my meeting with the NWAFF that I talked about in the Saturday BOT meeting. If you remember, you gave me permission to broach the possibility of asking the NWAFF if they would do their annual Welsh honoree of the year award at our banquet. That suggestion was received very positively.

Second I asked whether the NWAFF would consider joining with us in finding an administrative office which the two societies could share. That was also positively received.

Both issues will be presented to the November executive board meeting of NWAFF for their consideration. I'll keep you informed. I have not yet had time to put together the committee structure but I hope to do so within the next week.

So once again. Diolch yn fawr iawn for the work, we made great strides and made one huge decision. We now have a North American Festival of Wales, I think much publicity will now follow. We will be sending a special mailing to all members next week and watch out for the October issues of Y Drych and Ninnau.

HWyl Fawr

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