

1st night after 2 wks.

Medonalds - ~~out~~ into Llanelli

Rbt. - 1st left.

Rbt - Buryport Rd. ~~at~~ Rees

~~best~~ right traffic

old church

cross over Rt lane.

Right around ~~at~~ will

to bear left.

Thomas arms on fork - road

left fork - old Rd - to ~~top~~ end

just before bridge

M Th choir

W/Sat.

ad.

Llanelli,
Dyfed.
SA15 3HP.

Tel : 055 30

12th February, 1993.

Dear Alan,

Please excuse me writing to you regarding the proposed visit of the Choir to Seattle in August/September of 1994. However, I felt that you should know that both the Accompanist and I are fully committed to bringing to Seattle the Choir up to the strength which you stipulated in your letters to Michael.

The situation regarding the forthcoming Australian tour is slightly delicate at present. The Choir realises that I will not be conducting them in Australia, and that Colin Jones - the ex-conductor of Rhosllanerchrugog - has been appointed as guest conductor for that tour on my recommendation. Both Colin and I are working together in preparing the repertoire for the tour, and we have devised together a system whereby he will be taking 50% of the practices after Easter. But one or two choristers seemed to think that I would change my decision not to go to Australia. However, my standpoint has not changed, and there are one or two choristers who are disappointed by this.

My reason for not going to Australia was purely based on my family situation. Following the America/Canada tour of 1990, I vowed that my availability for any future Choir tour would be decided by whether or not I would be able to take my wife and daughter with me. Obviously, we think that the Australian tour is too much for a rising 8 year old child. The proposed American tour of 1994, however, would be ideal for the family.

There is also the honour which both Alan Rees and myself feel at having been invited to take part in the North American Gymanfa Ganu again, and we both want to be part of it.

However, to return to the question of choral strength, I can personally assure you, Alan, that Cor Meibion Llanelli will be in excess of 80 well-balanced choristers for the 1994 visit to the U.S.A. and Seattle.

What you should also know is that H.T.V. have contacted me regarding the possibility of filming the whole tour once again, with the climax featuring the Gymanfa in Seattle. The producer concerned spoke to me last night - 11th February. I have not revealed this to the Choir as yet because I would be accused in certain quarters of attempting to scuttle the Australian tour ! But when the choristers will know of this H.T.V. proposal, the 1994 tour of the States will become a focussed reality with them.

I hope that this letter explains the situation to you, and that you will not panic at the responses that seem to be reaching you at present.

Before closing, I would wish you to let Bob and Pat know that we are thinking of them, and that we are looking forward to meeting them both in 1994.

With best wishes to you all,

E. J. J.



...rd St.
Bothell WA 98011

27, March 1993

Dear Eifion

Sorry for this delay in writing. Within 24 hours of getting off the plane I went down with the flu. The old adage of never go away during work time also holds true. I returned to find a doubling of my responsibilities. Certainly keeps me busy.

It was great to meet with you again and many thanks indeed for your hospitality. Your reassurance helped greatly and I now am quite happy to keep working towards the Llanelli visit. Also my conversations with choristers at the rehearsals gave me the feeling that many of them want to come. We will have a good concert here.

I was able to contact the Mid Glamorgan youth band and they are enthusiastic about the possibility of exchanging with American schools. Of course there are many obstacles and much planning ahead but I would love to have them over here. I shall keep you informed of the progress so that if it comes off you can interact directly with the band.

I also tried, unsuccessfully, to contact the TV producer but would love to explore this further. Do you have an address to which I could write? Like you I believe that this possibility will galvanize the choristers into the final decision to come.

I have written to Michael indicating that I am not exactly demanding 80 choristers, but that I know that you will not allow an inferior choir to tour. Michael will report that letter to your committee, but as you and I discussed, balance and quality are as important as numbers. I have asked for the agreement to be signed in late summer.

Other than that we look forward to your visit next year. No doubt I shall be in Wales sometime again this year so we may meet again. Bob is coming over in mid April and I understand that he is going to write and visit the choir. He needs cheering up, Pat is just about holding her own.

Many thanks once again and regards to the whole family.

Best wishes

Alan

Bothell
WA 98011 USA

March 27, 1993

Michael Mason, Secretary
Cor Meibion Llanelli,

-----/

Llanelli
Dyfed, SA14 8DR, UK

Dear Michael,

Sorry that I was not able to get to see you on my last visit. Hope that you are now well again. I was hoping to see you at the rehearsal but you were ill. Anyway I had a good chat with Alan Nurton and Eifion and I think that I covered all I wanted to do. As you know John Dwen from Idaho was there also. We both came away happy that the choir would tour in 1994.

To go back to the phone conversation that we had in early February concerning the contract. The essential element of the tour party is that it be strong enough to provide a concert with balance, power and emotion. The number of 80 is a good round figure for a performing choir and I believe a good target number to aim for. I appreciate that one cannot be exact in numbers. I look at it two ways. We want a strong concert from a top quality choir and I believe that Llanelli would not in any way endanger its reputation by touring with a group which is not at the high standards which you set for yourselves. There is, I believe, considerable respect between the choir and the Puget Sound Welsh Association, respect which is based on trust. You would not tour if you could not provide quality, of that I am sure. Eighty is the approximate goal. If the choir could only raise 75 and Eifion would still be prepared to tour as a balanced unit I would not hold you to the number of 80.

Following my conversations with Eifion and Alan and with some of the choristers, I am convinced that you will be able to meet the goal, but also understand that you cannot now at this point in time commit to the number of tourists. We can wait until about August for the official confirmation by which ^{time} you would have been to Australia and settled back down. However I have to ask for your confirmation then since, if for any reason you were unable to come, I would have to arrange an alternate and you know what that would take. We have not yet contacted any alternate choir.

While I was in Wales I visited with the Mid Glamorgan youth band to determine if they would be interested in an exchange relationship with Seattle schools and contribute to the National. They were and there is a chance that we will have a choir/band concert. Eifion

knows of the possibility. This excites us greatly. I shall keep you informed.

Otherwise we had a good but very busy visit. The flu hit me as soon as I returned hence the delay in writing. Not quite fully recovered yet but now able to help the tenors out again. *At* this week *I* also *talked* talked with people from Victoria who were a little disappointed that you were not going there this time. I told them that you wanted a different tour package. Boise Idaho seems to be a definite. John Owen is very keen. I am in contact with Spokane who are thinking about it. I shall keep at it for you.

Also enclosed is some recent information that we have obtained about American visas for touring performers. Robin Huw Bowen is having some trouble getting in and I have sent this also to Dowlais choir in readiness for their tour. Perhaps you should contact them to see how they get on. I know its early but at least we are covering the bases.

Regards to all

Best wishes

Alan Upshall.

CÔR MEIBION LLANELLI

(LLANELLI MALE CHOIR)

(NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD WINNERS)

Patrons:

Sir MICHAEL DAVIES, Kt.
H.M. Lieut. Dyfed DAVID MANSEL LEWIS, B.A.
Mrs. MARGARET ENGLERT
Mr. HUW TREGELLES WILLIAMS
Mr. PHIL BENNETT, O.B.E.
Mr. RAY GRAVEL
SIÂN PHILLIPS



FORMED 1964

Musical Director: Mr. D. Eifion Thomas

President: Mr. D. H. DAVIES, C. Eng., M.I.C.E., M.B.I.M.

Hon. General Secretary:

MICHAEL MASON,
1 Clôs Cribyn, Swiss Valley,
Llanelli, Dyfed, SA14 8DR
Tel: (0554) 755985 (H); 758101 (B)
Fax: (0554) 771133

Hon. Treasurer:

ADRIAN HALLETT,
36 Heol Innes, Llanelli, Dyfed.
Tel: Llanelli (0554) 773163

Hon. Chairman:

ALAN NURTON,
'Ivy Cottage', 8 Parc Guto,
Llwynhendy, Llanelli, Dyfed.
Tel: Llanelli (0554) 774282

Mr. Alan Upshall.

Washington. 98011.
U.S.A.

28.5.93.

Dear Alan,

Many thanks for your letter of the 27.3.93. and enclosures relating to visas into the U.S. glad to hear that you were happy with your visit.

My apologies for the long delay in replying to your letter, but having made a fairly good recovery from my back trouble Sue went down with the same problem some 3 weeks ago and we had to call on her mother and father for assistance whilst I got on with working during the day and with the children in the evenings.

I have written a letter to Gail Ludowise in Vancouver Washington stating the fact that the tour was not a probability and that we had not done any work on the logistics until we returned from Australia. Don't know if she has been on to you regarding the visit but I would be interested in finding out. Our numbers for the Australian Tour have now dropped down to 76 singers, we have had various problems with choristers being hospitalised, losing their job etc. so from a start point of 103, 27 have dropped out. I am today writing a letter to John Cv in Boise Idaho, and have also made contact with the Minneapolis Welsh Soc. who are considering hosting us on the first leg of the tour. There should be no problem in having an internal fl from Minneapolis to Boise. As soon as we have established a way forward I will let you know.

Please convey my apologies to Bob Mathews for not affording him some time during his short stopover in Llanelli, I had just returned to full fitness and had a lot of catching up to do and as a result didn't get a chance to have a chat with him. Things didn't work out to good with his hosts either, felt a little embarrassed at the eventual outcome.

That's about it for now, hope your confidence in us is holding up and that your planning for The Cymanfa is going well. My work on the Australian Tour is almost over, all the homestay and hotel listings have gone, concert tickets are selling well from all accounts, just wish they didn't keep on ringing so early in the morning. Still they are some 10 hours ahead of us. Will be back in touch on our return from Oz. Give our best regards to Greta and Bob and all Welsh Folk in Seattle.

Regards.

Michael Mason
General Secretary.

Please address all communications to the General Secretary

Twin Choir the Singverein 1870 Laudenbach e.v. Germany.
Côr Meibion Llanelli is a registered charity (reg. no. 505113)

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(LLANELLI MALE CHOIR)
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Llwynhendy, Llanelli, Dyfed.
Tel: Llanelli (0554) 774282

*Call Michael
re the Salt
Lake*

Mr. Alan Upshall.
Bothell.
Washington. 96011.
U.S.A.

8.10.93.

Dear Alan,

Please find enclosed the signed agreement which as you will not has been amended from the original 80 choristers to 65 choristers, the balance between the sections is very good.

I have received some quotes from our travel agents for the tour, and we are due to meet with Mae Howells Anderson of Minneapolis on Tuesday 26th. October. Have also written to John Owen at Boise and have sent a letter to Salt Lake but have not received a reply. We are now fund raising for the tour and almost all the forms and commitments are in place. We will be with you on Friday 2nd. September and will depart on Monday 5th. September 1994. As on previous tours we will require hotel accomodation for some of the group near to the centre of the events perhaps you could let us know what your hotel costs are or recommend cheaper or smaller hotels near to the site of the 'Cymanfa'. Everything else now going according to plan we may not go to Salt Lake but stay in Minneapolis and St. Pauls for a longer period which would mean that the choir would be fresher for Seattle. Will inform you as time goes on how we are doing.

Look forward to seeing you in November again if you are in the country and can fully up-date you on the situation then. Looking forward to hearing further from you in due course

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Mason
General Secretary.

Please address all communications to the General Secretary

Twin Choir the Singverein 1870 Laudenbach e.v. Germany.
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Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Mike Mason
Company:
Phone:
Fax: 011-44

From: Alan Upshall
Company:
Phone:
Fax:

Date: 8/29/93

**Pages including this
cover page:**

Comments:

Mike, good to see you both again earlier this month. Off to Wilkes Barre Pennsylvania this week for this year's gymanfa. I thought that before I leave do you have any more news of the choir? Last trip uneventful enough. Just heard that I may have to go to India at the end of September. At least the accent will fit in.

Salt Lake City is well within a day's driving distance of Boise, Idaho. I think Salt Lake is a good idea. I do not have any contacts there but I may find one in Wilkes Barre. Otherwise write to the musical director of the Mormon Tabernacle choir.

regards

alan

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Michael Mason

Company: Llanelli choir

Phone:

Fax:

From: Alan Upshall

Company: Puget Sound Welsh

Phone: . . . 88

Fax: 1- . . . 9

Date: 11 Sept 1993

**Pages including this
cover page:** 2

Comments:

Dear Michael,

I felt that I should write again to outline the happenings at this year's Gymanfa in Pennsylvania and also provide something that you could read to the choir if you are still having problems of committment.

The concert in Wilkes Barre was a disaster. It consisted of a local choir which was not very good, a baritone, a soprano, a classical pianist (with a large ego) and Robin Huw Bowen. The only Welsh in the evening was Robin's contribution and he was on stage for no more than 20 minutes in three and a quarter hours. The soprano apologised for pronunciation of one Welsh verse of The Ash Grove. The pianist played for over 30 minutes and the net result was that Robin, who was supposed to be the star of the show, had to cut his second half segment down. There were many unhappy people. Many walked out. The last time there was a good Grand concert was when Llanelli was over in 1990. There were great sentiments last year for the return of a male voice choir (the mixed Ardwyn choir sang) and that sentiment was even more evident this year. There were cheers when I announced that Llanelli were coming. The Welsh community here are salivating at the prospect of not only hearing a male voice choir again, but hearing one of the best in Wales.

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Michael Mason
Company: Llanelli choir
Phone:
Fax: 01 85

From: alan upshall
Company: Puget Sound Welsh
Phone:
Fax:

Date: 12/12/93

**Pages including this
cover page:**

Comments: Michael, Progress is being made with all of the arrangements. Publicity is now in full swing. we could do with some publicity materials, including photos of the choir and some literature from which we can work. We have the 1992 schedule and the booklet from your 1990 tour. Do you have anything else which may be useful? A couple of CD's would also help. The photos are the most immediate. The January issue of Y Drych and Ninnau will want those. I have asked Eifion for photo and thumbnail sketch. Could you do the same for Alan Rees please and try to make sure that they get here.

Contact you probably again in the not to distant future.

Best wishes

Alan

I have a contact in Salt Lake. Ron Dennis who is a historian at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. He has recently returned from Wales. His address is 1170 N. Provo, Utah () or 4034 JHKB, Brigham Young Univ. Provo, Utah (). I have not talked to Ron. I got the information from Y Drych. The tabernacle choir director is also still a good bet. I shall be going to Spokane early October and can really find out what the situation is. You still have a tour. John Owen of Idaho is all ready to go. He has the hall and ticket sales all ready arranged. Seattle is firm, Salt Lake should be no problem and of course you have Minneapolis, if you still want to make that stop. We still have time to modify if you want. **There is absolutely no question that we in the Puget Sound Welsh Association want the Llanelli choir to sing at our grand concert and we will do whatever we can to make your visit happen (our budget won't let us increase the fee).** We are working with Wales Tourist Board on air support for the folk band (Plethyn). They are working with United. Might be worth giving them (Paul Loveluck) a call to see if you can co-ordinate a deal.

Apart from coming over again to try and convince you directly, I can do no more than send this fax. I understand the issues involved in you making the decision to come and can only encourage you and assure you that the effort will not be wasted. Your reputation will be considerably enhanced. However, the time is now such that I must have the committment so that we can proceed with our plans and publicity. My head is on the block. I've told everyone you are coming. The excitement is high. At this time have no plan B. There will be much disappointment if you do not come.