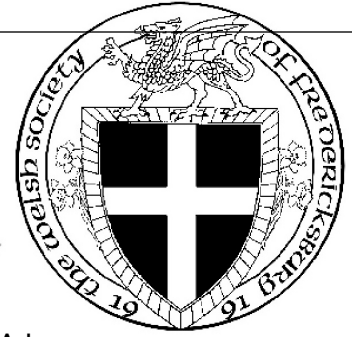


The Cambrian



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A 501c3 organization

We Are Still Here

January/Ionawr 2019

Rydyn Ni Yma O Hyd

BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA Happy New Year to all Society members

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

Our annual meeting and election of officers will be on Sunday January 27 2019 from 7:30 – 9 in Faulkner Hall, St. George's church. Please try to attend.

2019 WELSH FESTIVAL

We have a date for our 2019 Welsh Festival. This year's Fest will be Saturday Sept. 14, so please mark your calendars.

NAFOW 2019

The 2019 North American Festival of Wales will be August 29-September 1 in Milwaukee. They plan on having Festival registration open by Feb. 1. Check it out at: ihq@thewnaa.org

GOOD NEWS ABOUT BOB

Bob Roser is much better, and is finally home. Needs some recovery time, but he is "out and about!" He characterizes himself as "back from annwn".

OUR ST. DAVID'S POTLUCK

Our next meeting will be the St David's Day potluck on Sunday, February 24 at the American Legion Post on Woodford Street from 3-6pm. RSVP to Jeanette and tell her what you will bring! crowfeather@cox.net

JEN DELTH WELSH ARTIST SALE

Jen Delyth is a Welsh artist dealing in Celtic spiritual and legendary motives, on cloth, wood, canvas etc. Many motives are from the Mabinogion. You can check out what is available at:

<https://www.celticartstudio.com>

WELSH PARTY LEADER CALLS FOR CELTIC POLITICAL UNION

The leader of the Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru said there needs to be much greater cooperation between the Celtic nations post-Brexit.

Speaking in Dublin, last week, Adam Price proposed a Celtic Development Bank for joint infrastructure and investment projects in energy, transport and communications in Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man. Mr Price was guest speaker at the Institute of International and European Affairs, where he outlined the importance of developing the existing relationship between Ireland and Wales when Britain leaves the European Union.

As well as the development bank, he said he would also like to see the establishment of some kind of a Celtic political union. The structure of this union is already outlined and envisioned in the Good Friday Agreement, he said.

The Plaid leader also said that Ireland and Wales could become political partners in a project to fundamentally restructure political relationships across western Europe. This is a great project for the 21st century, he said. He said that Brexit has shown that the British political system is broken and that the time has come to choose not only to remain in but reform, renew and regenerate Europe. Just over 52% of voters in Wales chose to leave the European Union in the 2016 referendum. Ireland and Wales share a common Celtic linguistic heritage, which is under threat. According to the latest figures, 3,000 Welsh speakers are being lost every year due to death and emigration and just over half of the population in the strongest Welsh-speaking areas are native speakers.

IVOR THE ENGINE

Ivor the Engine a children's tale set in Wales, was first released on television on 28 December 1959.

Ivor the Engine is a children's television series that tells of the story of a little green locomotive living in the "top left-hand corner of Wales". His friends include Jones the Steam, Evans the Song and Dai Station. The series was later revived in 1975 when new episodes in colour were produced for the BBC.

The series was written and narrated by Oliver Postgate, with his friend Peter Firmin providing the artwork, which originally consisted of cardboard cut-outs painted with watercolours. It was produced in a disused cow shed at Firmin's home near Canterbury. The sound effects were endearingly low-tech, for example,

the sound of Ivor's puffing was made vocally by Postgate himself.

Postgate drew inspiration for the series from a World War II encounter with Welshman Denzyl Ellis, a former railway fireman, who described how steam engines came to life when steaming them up in the morning. Postgate decided to locate the story in the mountainous area of North Wales, as he considered it a more inspirational place than the flat terrain of the English Midlands.

REMOTE WELSH FARMHOUSE ACTUALLY ONE OF THE RAREST TYPES OF HOUSES IN THE COUNTRY

A farmhouse that once had water running through it has been confirmed as a rare 600-year old medieval hall.

Groundbreaking tests on Llwyn Celyn, in the Black Mountains on the border between Wales and England, found the house was completed in 1420-21 – making it almost a century older than first thought.

The building was once in a "perilous state of disrepair", supported by emergency scaffolding since the early 1990s and with water coursing through from the nearby hills.

After extensive repairs experts used a new dating technique first developed by climate change scientists.

Experts repeatedly tried to date the house through its timbers, using the more traditional tree ring analysis, but the attempts failed. Swansea University geography experts worked with archaeologists at Oxford University to develop the technique.

Geography professor Neil Loader said: "We have been working for some time with tree rings to study the climate of the past."



Llwyn Celyn from above (Image: © John Miller)

Professor Loader said they noticed that some of the physical and chemical compositions they found could be used as a dating tool.

By comparing samples with other examples where the age is known they are able to accurately date wood where typical techniques don't work.

Professor Loader said the technique, supported by the Lever Hulme Trust, had never before been used on an undated ancient building. In October 2018 The Landmark Trust announced the Llwyn Celyn would reopen after repairs costing £4.2m.

They said: "It came to us in a perilous state of disrepair and on the brink of collapse: shrouded in emergency scaffolding since the early 1990s, supported by a forest of temporary props, and with water coursing from the hillside."

A team used traditional craft skills to make it the 200th "historically significant" building to be saved by the charity.

The charity's director Dr Anna Keay said: "I think the thing I most remember about my first visit to Llwyn Celyn was the smell.

"What it looked like was almost impossible to tell. A great tattered mass of torn and tangled plastic sheeting billowed from the huge emergency scaffolding tent over the building that had been put up years before.

"Somewhere under this was a house. As you entered the gloom you were greeted by the grim odour of rot, of stagnant water, of sodden, decaying wood."

Despite their experience Dr Keay said the team took a "deep breath" at the prospect of restoring the house.

Six years later Llwyn Celyn can now be booked for self-catering holidays and can sleep eight people.

The Landmark Trust said the house has changed little since the late-17th Century.

Despite heavy research it's still unclear who built the core house or even why.

When the house was built Wales was just emerging from a turbulent period.

The Landmark Trust said: "Successive waves of plague from 1349 to 1400 were followed by the destruction of Owain Glyndŵr's Rising of 1401-15, done by Glyndŵr's army and the English alike.

"Very few vernacular Welsh houses survive from this period and this makes Llwyn Celyn, as an exceptionally high status house for its day, all the more intriguing."

WHY THE WORLD'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IS NAMED AFTER A WELSHMAN

The link between Wales and the highest mountain in the world probably isn't that apparent. Although Wales is full of beautiful mountains in its own right, none of them come close to the height of Mount Everest.

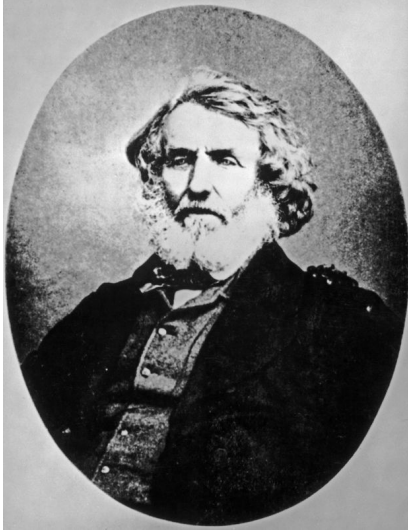
But despite seeming world's apart, the links are closer than many imagine.

Before 1865, to the western world the mountain was simply known as "Peak XV".

It wasn't until Powys born George Everest travelled to the Indian subcontinent that the region was accurately mapped.

His pioneering work was well-respected in his field, but it was in 1865 that his name was immortalised.

Born in 1790 in Crickhowell in Powys, Everest joined the East India Company as a teenager, eventually winning promotion to the post of Surveyor-General of India in 1830.



Welsh geographer George Everest (Image: Getty Images)

He served in the role until 1843, during which time he was responsible for mapping out vast swathes of the Indian subcontinent.

In 1865 his successor in the post, Andrew Scott Waugh, announced he would rename the world's highest mountain, previously known simply as "Peak XV", after his eminent fore-runner – to Everest's annoyance.

And hundreds of years later, naming the 29,029ft mountain "Everest" remains controversial in Nepal and Tibet.

In Tibetan, the peak goes by the name Chomolungma, or Mother Goddess of the Universe.

In Nepali, the mountain – which straddles the border between the two – is named Sagarmatha, which translates as Goddess of the Sky. There have been some calls for the mountain to lose the moniker Everest and to readopt those names more widely, with some arguments sug-

gesting keeping the name of an imperial British surveyor is an outdated colonial throw-back. Everest's birthplace and familial home in the small Powys town is now the Manor Hotel. Then the Manor of Gwernvale, the hotel remains proud of the link, displaying a number of artefacts from Everest expeditions and having named its restaurant after the man himself.

Writing in the 'Backsights' magazine published by the Surveyors Historical Society, Mary M. Root said: "It is not known whether or not George Everest ever laid his eyes on the great mountain that bears his name, but his triangulation network was extended and used to locate the summit by Andrew Waugh, Everest's successor as Surveyor General in India.

"Waugh's admiration of Everest's achievements led to the naming of 'Peak XV' in the Himalayas.

"After its discovery by his team, Waugh, wrote: '...here is a mountain most probably the highest in the world without any local name that I can discover...', so he proposed '...to perpetuate the memory of that illustrious master of geographical research...Everest.'"

Everest is the highest mountain in the world when measuring summits by their height above sea level.

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