

clecs!

Spring 2010

Learning Welsh in North Wales - news, events, and more...

Welcome...

Practising your Welsh outside the classroom is just as important as attending lessons. Read on and you'll find stories about other learners and find out about the activities that are being arranged in your area...



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

ROYLE BLOG

Many people around North Wales know Will Williams – not just because he's **the spit of** Jim Royle from the hit TV series 'The Royle Family', but also because he does so much **voluntary** work campaigning and fundraising for all sorts of local **charities**. This year he'll be starting a new **campaign** to learn Welsh.

Will was brought up over the border but he's lived in Caernarfon for the past 25 years and he runs the 'Tŷ Hapus' Bed and Breakfast establishment in the town. Having lost his wife a little over a year ago, he realised how close and supportive the local Welsh community was. In order to pay something back to that community and take a greater

part in it, Will decided to set himself the challenge of learning Welsh.

Will has been attending lessons for some weeks now and he has set up a blog to share his trials and tribulations with other learners and encourage more people to take up the language. Will commented: "I really enjoy sharing my experiences in learning Welsh with everyone, and I hope to get more people to realise how important, enjoyable and painless the process is."

You can follow Will's efforts by going to www.roylewelsh.com. Remember that there are other online resources available on the www.learnwymraeg.org website.

the spit of	=	yr un ffunud
voluntary	=	gwirfoddol
campaign	=	ymgyrchu
charities	=	elusennau



www.learnwymraeg.org

Welsh Learner of The Year Award 2009

Only two and a half years after moving to Wales from Ohio, Meggan Lloyd Prys won the title of Welsh Learner of the Year 2009..

Meggan hails originally from Chillicothe, and she was living and studying there when she met her husband, Cynog and developed an interest in Wales and its language. She set about learning Welsh as soon as she arrived here; and just a month after that she got married in Welsh.

After eighteen months learning Welsh, Meggan didn't speak anything but Welsh with her husband's family. By now she's working as a **Classroom** and **Special Needs Assistant** through the medium of Welsh at Llanfairpwll School on Anglesey and she's also a Welsh for Adults tutor – a great achievement for any learner.

Meggan Lloyd Prys receiving the Learner of the Year trophy at the National Eisteddfod in Bala, 2009

Classroom assistant
= Cymhorthydd Dosbarth
Special needs
= Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig

If you don't understand someone who's speaking Welsh, ask them to speak slowly. Say: "Araf os gwelwch yn dda, dw i'n dysgu Cymraeg".

Do everything in Welsh...

- Hear informal chat... www.saysomethinginwelsh.com/home
- Download podcasts... www.cymraegonthemove.co.uk
- Follow us on Twitter... www.twitter.com/learn_cymraeg
- Browse on the internet... www.bbc.co.uk/learnwelsh
- Welsh on the Web... www.gwefan.org
- Go to our website... www.learnwales.org



Flintshire clecs

CLWB CD

Clwb CD was started in February last year for learners who have recently commenced learning Welsh in the Flintshire area and who want to hear more of the language and try holding conversations. The main **emphasis** is on having fun through the medium of Welsh and learners at all stages are welcome. Here's what happened at one of their most recent events...

What is better on a cold November night than a hot curry? That's exactly what Clwb CD had after one of the tutors **suggested** holding a learners' night at the Bengal Dynasty in Shotton as the waiters there were learning Welsh.

It wasn't easy working out how to turn an Indian night out Welsh but the Flintshire Welsh Language Initiative suggested holding a Language Awareness evening. Rebecca almost had a fit when she heard the day before that almost 50 were going to turn up. She rapidly had to change her plans and draw up a quiz asking facts about Wales, with a pack containing most of the answers being given out to each learner.

After the quiz we had a splendid buffet with plenty of food and a glass of wine each. It was great to hear the **waiter** asking 'red wine or white?' in Welsh!

The evening was very well received and the workers at the Bengal Dynasty said that they were **keen** to see us again. This is sure to become an annual event but our tutors will have to broaden our knowledge about Wales by next year!

emphasis	=	pwyslais
suggest	=	awgrymu
waiter	=	gweinydd
keen	=	awyddus
pronounce	=	ynganiad

Denbighshire clecs

The Côr Popeth choir was started for the Eisteddfod at Bala and it's going from strength to strength under the skilful leadership of Nesta Davies. We are trying to find a time that will suit everybody. Contact the Welsh Unlimited office in Denbigh (01745 8128287) to find out details of the next practice.

Watch as much television in Welsh as you can and listen to Radio Cymru as often as possible. Don't worry if you don't understand when you start learning – it's useful just hearing the **pronouncement** of Welsh.



Gwynedd clecs

GOOD EVENING AT COLEG MEIRION-DWYFOR

The Dwyfor Christmas Party was held at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Pwllheli, at the beginning of December. The place was crowded with Welsh learners from every part of the Llŷn. **As well as enjoying the food**, the learners had the chance to hear Rhian Dyer from Mynytho playing the harp and Alys Roberts from Rhoslan singing Welsh carols. At the end of the evening the learners and Alys joined together in singing carols in Welsh as well as the National Anthem.

The highlight of the evening was listening to Meggan Prys's amazing story. She won the Welsh Learner of the Year award in 2009, having started learning Welsh in the summer of 2006 only a month before taking her wedding vows in Welsh!

Fflur Rees Roberts and Catrin Evans-Thomas, who arranged the evening, said: "Meggan's story is incredible and it has inspired Dwyfor's learners by showing that, with **perseverance**, it is possible to become fluent in Welsh in no time at all!"

It wasn't just the learners who enjoyed the evening: "I've enjoyed being here with Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor's learners," said Meggan. "Since winning the title of Welsh Learner of the Year I've been lucky enough to talk to various learners' groups and share my experiences as a learner and hear their stories as well."

as well as = ogystal
enjoying the food = hel eu boliau
perseverance = dyfalbarhad

Getting to know...

Name? Claire Davies

Age? 26

Home? I live in Bethesda

Work? I work for North Wales Police as a Senior Information Analyst

Why learn Welsh? I had learned Welsh as a second language at school but I hadn't used the language much once I left. I felt that I had lost a lot of the language and I wasn't fluent to start with.

How has Welsh helped you? Learning Welsh has opened new doors for me. I feel more a part of the community and I understand place and street names better, and that's very interesting. I feel lucky that I can read Welsh books as there are very many that haven't been translated into English. At work I can offer a bilingual service (more or less).

What has helped you learn Welsh? I joined a Talk Session that is held in Bethesda. It's a good excuse to go out for a pint or a cuppa twice a month. Every morning I listen to 'Post Cyntaf' on Radio Cymru while I'm driving to work. It's a great programme because you hear someone speaking Welsh all the time without any music.

There are many websites about learning Welsh. Those I find useful are:
www.acen.co.uk a magazine for learners, things about Welsh history
www.bbc.co.uk/wales/learnwelsh/ all sorts of things to help you learn Welsh
www.geiriadur.net/ online dictionary

Favourite Welsh word? 'sgwarnog (Hare)

Tips? Stick at it! It's important to use your Welsh as often as you can.

Listen to the radio and watch S4C! My vocabulary has improved a lot by listening to Radio Cymru and watching Welsh television programmes.

If you don't know the Welsh word for something use the English one – it doesn't matter!



Claire Davies receiving 'Welsh Learner of the Year' award with North Wales Police at the National Eisteddfod in Bala

Wrexham clecs

WREXHAM AREA WELSH LEARNERS' CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

The first Christmas party for Welsh learners in the Wrexham area was arranged for last December. Over 60 learners from Yale College were there and they enjoyed celebrating Christmas by playing games and dancing to Welsh music at Wrexham's Frenzy night club.

The Christmas party was only the start however; a full programme of events and **activities** has been arranged for the coming year. In February a session of games of all sorts will be held at Plas Pentwyn, Coedpoeth. In March the area's learners will have a chance for a chat and a song over a pint, and in April the learners will get the opportunity to compete in the Learners' Eisteddfod in Gwersyllt.

If you would like more information and to get the full programme, contact Helen Pritchard-Jones, Welsh for Adults **Coordinator** at Yale College on 01978 311794 or HPJ@yale-wrexham.ac.uk.

What about trying to attend at least one activity a month to practice your Welsh?

activities = weithgareddau
coordinator = cydlynnydd

Don't worry about making mistakes when you speak Welsh. It's part of the process of learning, so just laugh about them!

Meic Williams busy at his desk at the Menter Môn offices

Anglesey clecs

A LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE: MEIC WILLIAMS

Although I'm Welsh, I was brought up in English, and friends would never think of speaking Welsh to me, so every chance I get is important to me. As a Welsh Learner and a member of the "Sadwrn Sgwrsio" club, The tutors lead us in doing various tasks, and read out information about activities going on in the neighbourhood, such as rambles, exhibitions and so on, which of course I attended!

Since I joined Sadwrn Sgwrsio, I've been to a Twmpath Dawns (folk dancing evening), been on a bus to the National Eisteddfod in Bala, been to hear Sian James and Dafydd Iwan in concerts, all for the very first time. It's been an amazing experience for me. It's opened up a new life of understanding and given me a new crew of friends.

What's on...

County	Where?	What?	When?
Anglesey	Victoria Hotel, Menai Bridge	Cuppa & Chat	9.15-10.15 Second Thursday of every month
	Menter Môn Offices, Llangefni	Cuppa & Chat	12.30-13.30 Second Tuesday of every month
	Harvest Moon Café, Holyhead	Cuppa & Chat	16.00-17.00 Second Wednesday of every month
	Beumaris Library	Nursery Rhymes	9.30-11.00 Every Monday
Gwynedd	Douglas Arms Bethesda	Pint & Chat	20.00-21.00 Third Monday of every month
	The Centre, Talysarn	Learners Club	13.00-15.00 Every Friday
	8. Cardiff Street, Pwllheli	Cuppa & Chat	10.30-12.30 Every Saturday
	Y Felin Sgwrsio, Y Felinheli	Cuppa & Chat	11.00-12.30 Every Saturday
	Big Rock Café, Porthmadog	Cuppa & Chat	10.30- 12.30 Every Saturday
	Caffi Fitzpatrick	Cuppa & Chat	11.00-12.00 First Saturday of every month
	Porthnadog Centre	Singing Session *	13.00 - 15.00 starting 18/01/09 then third Thursday of every month
Drindod Chapel, Pwllheli	Singing Session *	10.30 - 11.30 Starting 21/01/10 then third Thursday of every month	
Conwy	Hesketh House, Abergele	Cuppa & Chat	10.00 Second Saturday of every month
	Red Lion, Llansannan	Cuppa & Chat	10.00 Third Saturday of every month
	Talgoed Nursery, Glan Conwy	Cuppa & Chat	10.00 Third Saturday of every month
	BHS Café, Llandudno	Cuppa & Chat	10.00 Every Thursday
Denbighshire	Gales Wine Bar, Llangollen	Chatting Session	20.00-22.00 Second Wednesday of every month
Flintshire	Blue Bell Inn, Halkyn	Chatting Session	19.00-20.30 Every Thursday
	Royal Oak, Hendre, Mold	Chatting Session	19.00-20.30 Every Thursday
Wrexham	Bellis Gardening Centre	Chatting Session	10.30 First Saturday of every month
	Royal Oak, Glyn Ceiriog	Chatting Session	19.00 First Tuesday of every month
	Royal Oak, Glyn Ceiriog	Chatting Session	19.00 Third Tuesday of every month
	Nag's Head Pub, Wrexham	Chatting Session	19.00 Last Friday of every month
	Sun Inn, Rhosllanerchrugog	Chatting Session	19.30 Every Tuesday
	Healthy Living Café, Yale College, Wrexham	Chatting Session	12.00-13.00 Every Thursday
	Plas Coch Pub, Wrexham	Chatting Session**	19.15 Wednesday night (during College break)
	The Golden Lion Pub, Coedpoeth	Informal Classes**	20.00 Every Monday

* Singing Session open to parents and their children

** Contact Alison White on 07853 374259

*** Further details- Colin Edwards 01978 750613

Find at least one Welsh speaker to help you – not your tutor; what about a neighbour or colleague?

Have you enjoyed this issue?

Or have you something to contribute to the next one?

Contact **Siwan Hywel: 01248 388248**

or siwan.hywel@bangor.ac.uk

Want to know more about learning Welsh in North Wales?

The **Welsh for Adults Centre** is the place to come. This is your one stop shop for information about courses and events for learners at every level. We can advise you as to how to go about learning and put you in touch with your local provider. Contact us at: **01248 383928**, learnwymraeg@bangor.ac.uk or go to our website www.learnwymraeg.org