



# DRAGON SPEAK

the newsletter of the Welsh Society of Oregon

image 1: [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

Ebrill (April) 2016



image 2: [allcars.pw](http://allcars.pw)

**Come to  
our  
APRIL  
2nd  
meeting  
!**

We will be having a *social hour* after the pot luck meal.

Check-in with your friends, get to know a new Welsh-American, talk about things Cymreig!



# Cymraeg

We all want to do as well as we can in pronouncing Welsh words as we encounter them. Below is a fun exercise of the rules of how to say vowels and consonants in Welsh. BUT ...

the exercise is actually a short story in English using Welsh pronunciation.

First, we'll give the pronunciation rules:

\*\* all vowels & consonants as in English unless noted below -

Vowels: a as in "man"; e as in "bet"; i as in "sit"; o as in "gone"; w as in "look"; y as in u in "under"

Dinyr taim dywn ddy pit was alweis yn ecseiting affer. Ddy contents of ddy mainyrs' 'bocsys' wyr y sors of gret intrest, particiwlarli iff dder had bin y parti or y darts match in ddy clyb ddy neit biffor. Dden ddy bocys wd bi ffield widd ol sorts fo titbits: scotch eggs, cocteil sosijys, ciwcymbyr sandwijis widd ddy crysts cyt off et setera.

Rhys and Gareth olweis sat twgeddyr ffor dinyr and rilijysli opyndd ddeir sandwijis tw lwc inseid tw si wot ddei had. Gareth wd olweis haf gwd fareieti throwt ddy wic: tshis on Myndei, ham on Tiwsdei, cornd biff on Wensdei. Pwr old Rhys on ddi yther hand, had bitrwt sandwijis eferi dei.

Everi diner teim, Rhys wd egsamin his sandwijis and complain ddat hi had bitrwt agen. Afftyr abowt sic mynths, Gareth sygjestid ddat Rhys spoc tw his weiff and ascd hyr tw gif him symthing els. Rhys thot ffor y wheil and sed,

"Ai cant dw ddat. Ai dw mec mei own sandwijis."

*'translation' on Charddiadau - Laughs page.*



image 3: KarenAlice Jones

We are so pleased at the growth of the Endowment Fund!! In March, we received two donations totaling \$125. from Robert Thomas and Joe Williams. Our balance now is \$4,398.00.

If you have a 'special person' with a birthday in April, May, or June will you consider making a gift in their honor?

Contact Janet Figini 971.295.4311 [jpfigini2@gmail.com](mailto:jpfigini2@gmail.com)



image 4: John Evans

## Leeks of Interest ...

true tidbits about Wales  
and Welsh-America

### 'Pastures Green and Dark Satanic Mills - the British Passion for Landscapes'

An exhibition of art from *National Museum Wales* is now open until April 24 at Princeton University Art Museum in Princeton, New Jersey. Drawn from the remarkable collections of the National Museum Wales, *Pastures Green & Dark Satanic Mills: The British Passion for Landscape* offers audiences a rare opportunity to follow the rise of landscape painting in Britain, unfolding a story that runs from the Industrial Revolution through the eras of Romanticism, Impressionism, and Modernism, to the postmodern and post-industrial imagery of today. Showcasing masterpieces by artists from Constable to Turner, to Monet working in Britain, the exhibition offers new insights into the cultural history of Britain as it became the world's first industrial nation late in the eighteenth century.

article information: Idris Evans

6th century St. Derfel Gardarn was related to Hywel, a legendary Brythonic king of Brittany. Gdarn's life as a soldier caused him to turn to religion, and he became a hermit and then a monk at Llanwit, Wales. He may have been abbot of Bardsley Island.

Henry VIII of England (from the Tudor line of Wales) wanted to destroy all papist art in the country. He took the wooden statue of St. Gdarn on horseback - the treasured image of the church at Llanderfel. The locals warned that the image was prophesied to set an entire forest on fire, so he had John Forest, an unrepentant Catholic, burned at the stake holding Gdarn's statue, so the prophecy would be fulfilled.

### A Welsh Dinosaur !! the dragon thief

*Dracoraptor hanigani*, meaning "dragon thief" is a dinosaur discovered near Cardiff, south Wales. The name, Dracoraptor, meaning 'dragon thief' is a reference to the mythical Dragon of Wales, while hanigani honors Nick and Rob Hanigan who discovered the skeleton.

*Dracoraptor hanigani*, which lived about 200 million years ago, was a theropod dinosaur about seven feet long, a slender little thing, not much different from the *Daemonofaurus*.

The dinosaur was exposed by a cliff collapse. The bone fragments were 'rescue collected' by amateurs Nick and Rob Hanigan, who donated the fossil to the Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum of Wales.

article information: Dick Pilz



image 5: [commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org)



image 6: [commons.wikimedia.com](https://commons.wikimedia.org)

# GREAT CASTLES OF WALES

## Harlech Castle



image 7: [commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org)

In the semi-mythical era, long before Edwards conquest of Wales, the Mabinogion tells of the early fortress of Harlech. The heroic giant and king of the British, Bendigeifran (Brân the Blessed), ruled the court at Harlech, which needed to ally itself with the Irish. Bendigeifran's sister Branwen (White Crow), married the King of Ireland and bore him a son, Gwern, but war broke out and Gwen was killed. A modern-day sculpture by Ivor Roberts depicting the sorrowful uncle and dead nephew stands outside Harlech Castle. *Rough Guide to Wales*

Harlech (translated as 'high rock') Castle, standing on a 200-ft bluff, was one of Edward I's 'Iron Ring' of fortresses intended to control the Welsh. Construction began in 1283, just six months after the death of Llewelyn the Last.

The structure, overseen by Edward's master castle planner, James of St. George, boast two rings of walls and towers. The natural strength of the castle rock and cliff face meant that only the east face was open to possible attack. Here an immensely strong gatehouse guards access. The gate-passage itself was protected by a succession of no less than seven obstacles, including three portcullises. On either side were guardrooms, and the upper floors provided comfortable sites for visiting dignitaries, including the king. The castle's secret weapon was a 200 foot long stairway which still leads from the castle to the cliff base.

Access via the stairway to the sea and crucial supplies kept the castle's besieged inhabitants fed and watered. When it was first built, a channel would have connected the castle and the sea. You could have sailed a boat up to the moat. Seven hundred years later, the sea has receded. [castlewales.com](http://castlewales.com)

retrieved 3/6/16

Harlech Castle has seen a lot of action in its time: it witheld a siege in 1295, was taken by Owen Glyndŵr in 1404. It became Glyndŵr's residence and military headquarters for the remainder of the uprising until being recaptured by English forces in 1409.

The youthful, future Henry VII - the first Welsh King of England and Wales - withstood a seven-year siege at the hands of the Yorkists between 1461-1468, in the War of the Roses, until the castle was taken. The long siege inspired the song, 'Gŵyr Harlech' (Men of Harlech), nation's unofficial anthem, loved by rugby fans and regimental bands alike.

Following the outbreak of the English Civil War in 1642, the castle was held by forces loyal to Charles I, holding out until 1647, when it became the last fortification to surrender to Parliamentary forces.

In the 21st century the ruined castle is managed by CADW, the Welsh government's historic environment service, as a tourist attraction.

[www.cad.gov.wales](http://www.cad.gov.wales) retrieved 3/4/16

### Rhyfelgyrch Gwŷr Harlech (Men of Harlech)

Welsh Words - Ceiriog  
English - William Duthie

G C G D G Am E7 Am A7 D A D7

1. We - le goel - certh wen yn fflam - io A thaf - od - au tân yn bloedd - io,  
1. Men of Har - lech! In the hol - low, Do you hear, like rush - ing bil - low,



## CHWARDDIADAU (Laughs)

Two of the boys from the pit arrived at the spiffy new Englishman-run *Goose and Cleaver* pub and ordered a couple of pints. They then took sandwiches out of their boxes and began to eat.

Seeing this, the angry owner approaches them and says,

"Excuse me but you cannot eat your own sandwiches in here!"

The two look at each other, shrug, and exchange sandwiches.

Stan, a new miner at the pit, fell down the shaft.

The pit manager called out to him, "Have you broken anything?"

Stan says, "No, there's not much to break down here!"

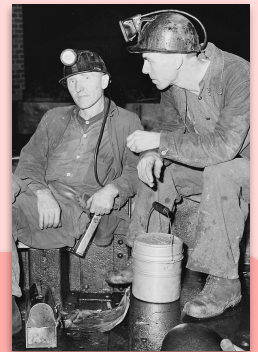


image 8: [commons.wikimedia.com](https://commons.wikimedia.org/)

### Translating the Welsh spelling ----

Dinner time down the pit was always an exciting affair. The contents of the miners' 'boxes' were the source of great interest, particularly if there had been a party or darts match in the club the night before. Then the boxes would be filled with all sorts of tidbits - scotch eggs, cocktail sausages, cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut of etcetera.

Rhys and Gareth always say together for dinner and religiously opened their sandwiches to look inside to see what they had. Gareth would always have a good variety throughout the week: cheese on Monday, ham on Tuesday, corned beef on Wednesday. Poor old Rhys, on the other hand, had bitterroot sandwiches every day.

Every dinner time, Rhys would examine his sandwiches and complain that he had bitterroot again. After about six months, Gareth suggested that Rhys spoke with his wife and asked her to give him something else. Rhys thought a while and said,

"I can't do that. I do make my own sandwiches."



*Happy Birthday to WSOP'ers born in APRIL! !*

Penblwydd Hapus i chi! May your day be full of good friends and family, and good cheer!

Carol Garner	Apr 6	Joseph Williams	Apr 27
John Evans	Apr 13		
Ethan Lewis	Apr 13		
SueAnn Townley	Apr 15		
Gerri Parry	Apr 16		
Joyce Stewart	Apr 16		



image 9: [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)

if we missed you, we may not have your birthday on the list. Please call or email John Evans (see below). **also note: we are including only 2015 & 2016 paid members**



The Welsh Society of Oregon is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**Our mission:** The Welsh Society of Oregon develops, and perpetuates Welsh heritage, culture, and music in Oregon. We strive to sustain: pride in being Welsh, support for learning about Wales, the Welsh language, and exploration of Welsh-American issues by our members and for others in the community.

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**Our Meetings**

- April 2 Social afternoon**
- May 7 Life in a Medieval Castle**
- June 4 A Family History Detective**
- July 9 Picnic at Bryn Seion**

12:30pm Business Meeting for all  
1:00pm Refreshments  
1:30pm Program

**Unless noted, all meetings of WSOR are held at**

**Kenilworth Presbyterian Church 4028 SE 34th Ave. at Gladstone St. Portland, OR 97202**