

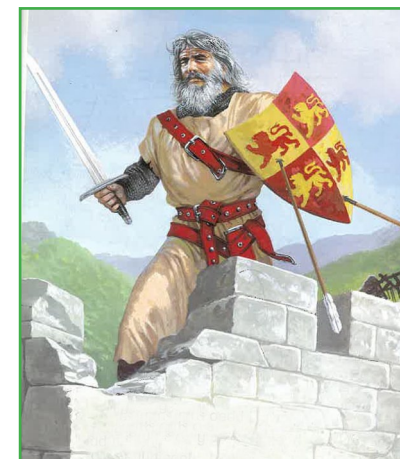
TIMELINE

Characters and Events in Wales



This timeline shows some of Wales' key characters and events ranging from Caradog and the Roman invasion of the Britons to World War II.

Illustrations: Dref Wen



Caradog battles against the Roman Invasion of the Britons.



Lord Rhys or **Yr Arglwydd Rhys** holds a gathering at Cardigan Castle. This became the first ever Eisteddfod.

43AD

Circa **462**
– **515** AD

1176

1188

St David was born during this period. The exact year is unknown. In 550 he founded a monastery in St David's, Pembrokeshire on the site of the cathedral today. On Tuesday 1st March 589 AD St David, believed to be over 100 years old, dies.

Gerald of Wales or **Gerallt Gymro** (1146 – 1223) travelled Wales accompanying the Archbishop of Canterbury, writing about their journey.

Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, also known as Llywelyn the Last (Llywelyn ein Llyw Olaf) is known as the last leader of a united Wales. In 1255, on the request of many leaders, he became known as the Prince of Wales. Killed by soldiers of Edward I in Cilmeri on 11th December 1282 where a memorial stands today.



1223

Edward I orders the building of castles in Wales. Between 1276 – 1295 he built or repaired 17 castles. There are over 600 in Wales today. How many have you visited? How many can you name?

1283

The Black Death arrives in Wales. Within a year it would kill a third of the population.

1349



Owain Glyndŵr is born. On 16th September 1400 he begins a rebellion against Henry IV and begins to fight for an independent Wales. In 1404 he summoned a parliament in Machynlleth where he was declared Prince of Wales. He disappeared in 1415 and no one knows, to this day, what happened to him.



Henry VIII created the Act of Union meaning Wales is officially governed by English law.

1359

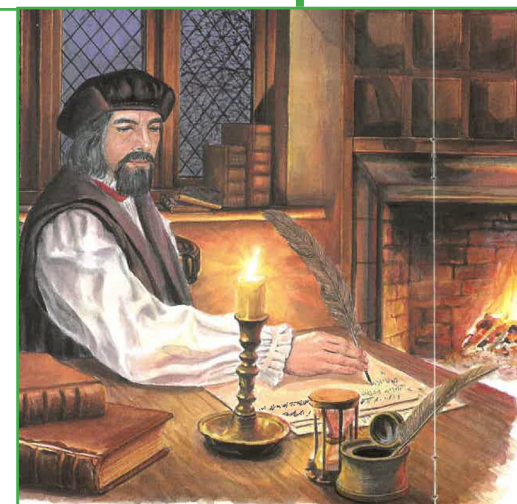
1485

1536

1588

Henry Tudor defeats Richard III at Bosworth at the War of the Roses to become King of England. This was the beginning of a 118 year reign of the Tudors. Can you name any other King or Queen from this period?

Esgob William Morgan's Welsh translation of the Bible is published on the request of Elizabeth I. It is believed that this act saved the Welsh language from extinction.



The Industrial Age began and Wales became the largest producers of copper and iron in the world.

1750

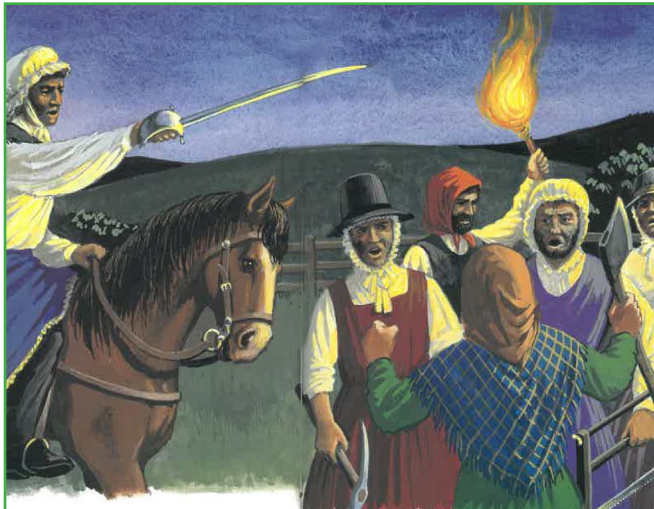
Iolo Morgannwg (1747-1826) establishes the first 'Gorsedd of the Bards' – a meeting of Welsh Bards in Primrose Hill, London which he saw as 'the custodian of the Welsh language and culture'. The Gorsedd still takes place at every National Eisteddfod to this day.

1792

The first official **census** record is published. The population of Wales was 587,000. Merthyr Tudful, with a population of 7,705 was the largest town in Wales. Why do you think this was?

1801

1839



On 1st May in this year, the toll house in Efailwen, Carmarthenshire was attacked by a group of men dressed as women who became known as the **Rebecca Rioters**. These were farmers protesting about the tolls charged by the Turnpike companies to travel along certain roads. Several other groups across south west Wales arose between then and 1843 attacking and setting fire to tollhouses until tolls were abolished.

A detrimental report into Welsh education is published known as 'The Blue Books' (Brad y Llyfrau Gleision). This report ultimately resulted in the '**Welsh Not**' being implemented in schools across Wales. This was a method of punishment for school pupils who spoke Welsh to their friends. They would be forced to wear a wooden plaque around their necks with the words Welsh Not or the letters W.N. on it. They would pass this on to the next pupil they heard speaking Welsh.



1847

1854

1856



Welsh nurse **Betsi Cadwaladr**, worked alongside Florence Nightingale caring for wounded soldiers in the Crimean War.

Evan James and **James James** of Pontypridd compose 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' which is now Wales' national anthem. Do you know and understand the meaning of our national anthem?

On 28th May of this year the '**Mimosa**' set sail from Liverpool on its long voyage to Patagonia with 160 Welsh passengers on board in search of a more prosperous life. They arrive in Port Madryn on 28th July. They established a Welsh community which still exists today.



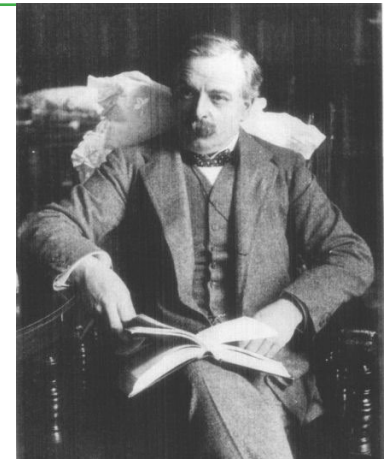
1865

1900

1916

3,000 slate workers come out on **strike at Penrhyn Slate Quarry** until 1903 changing the face of Bethesda and the area for ever.

David Lloyd George (1863 – 1945) becomes Prime Minister. He was the first Welsh man and the only Welsh speaker to have held this office.





The poet, Ellis Humphrey Evans better known by his bardic name, **Hedd Wyn** (1887-1917) wins the chair at Birkenhead Eisteddfod (Penbedw in Welsh). Killed in Pilkem Ridge battle in France during World War I, the chair was covered with a black cloth in memory of his tragic death.

1917

Syr Ifan ab Owen Edwards, son of O M Edwards established Urdd Gobaith Cymru – a Welsh language organisation for young people. The camp in Llangrannog was opened in 1932. The first Urdd Eisteddfod was held in Corwen in 1929.

1922

1939

On 1st September in this year Germany invade Poland and **World War II** is declared. The war would end on 2nd September 1945 when Japan finally signed a surrender document. During these six years there were between 50 – 70 million fatalities worldwide. Around 110,000 children were evacuated to Wales.

On 19th February in this year the **Swansea Blitz** began when German Luftwaffe bombed the town. The Blitz would last for three days.

1941

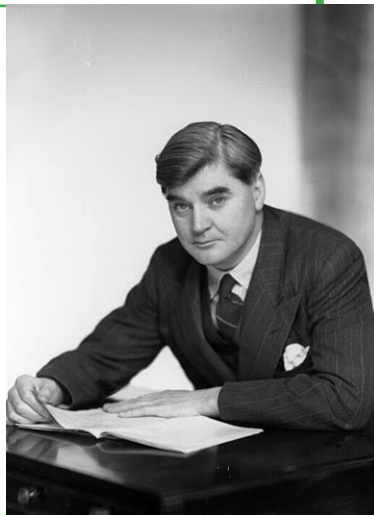
A decision was made by members of the Liverpool City Council to drown the **Tryweryn Valley** near Bala, North Wales in order to provide a water supply for the people of Liverpool and the Wirral. There were widespread protests but in 1965 the dam that had been created was filled with water. 67 residents lost their homes including their school and chapel. In 2005 Liverpool City Council issued a formal apology.

1948

1953

1955

The National Health Service is established by **Aneurin Bevan** (1897–1960), Secretary of State for Health.



Born in Dowlais, Glamorgan, **Laura Ashley** with her husband Bernard Ashley establishes the textile company. She opened her first shop in London in 1967. By 1985, the company had 180 retail outlets.



Cardiff became the **capital city** of Wales.

Led by Arthur Scargill of The National Union of Mineworkers, half of Britain's **187,000 miners** **downed tools and came out on strike**. In what became a year of extreme hardship for miners and their families the strike did not end until 3rd March 1985.



1955

1984-85

1999

The **Welsh Assembly** is established following a referendum on devolution.

