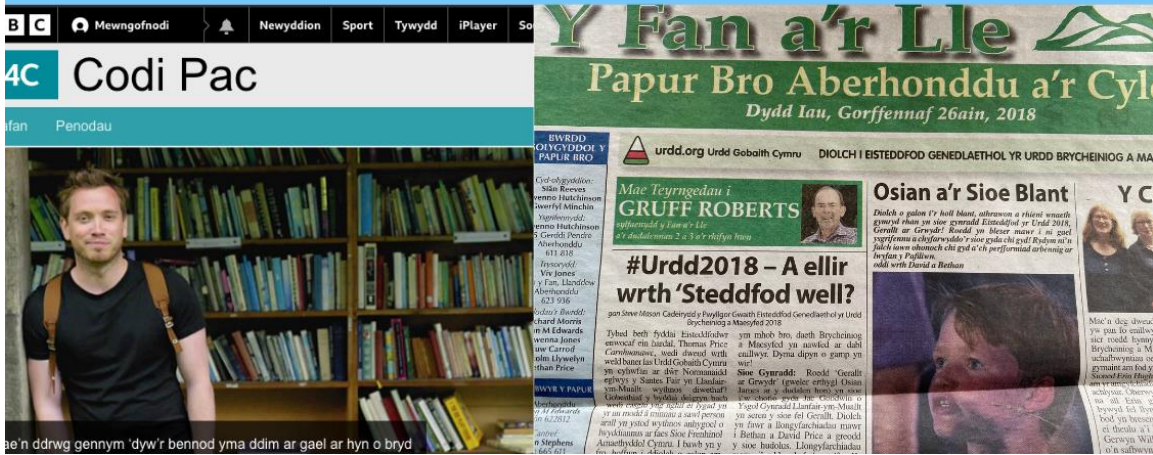


HAY CASTLE TRUST

Powys Arwain/Leader



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1. Introduction to Pilot Welsh Language Scheme

Hay on Wye is very much a border town, sitting directly on the national border between Wales and England as well as the traditional demarcation of Offa's Dyke Path. In the past Hay was divided into both English and Welsh Hay and administration was split between the two. Today the town is experiencing a growth in Welsh identity and use of the Welsh language and Hay Castle intends to play its part in forging and exploring that identity in this borderland.

Hay Castle Trust has an opportunity with its new learning space to include Welsh language learning alongside the normal legal requirements for bilingual signage and interpretation of the heritage site. The Arwain funding offered an opportunity to concentrate on this element of our work and develop a scheme that would carry our Welsh offer into the future.

In order to develop the idea behind some form of classes it was decided that a pilot scheme should be explored to look at the methods and themes which could be explored and the best format for learning Welsh as an adult in Hay. It was decided that adults should be the focus as all children in Welsh Schools will be encouraged to use and develop their Welsh, but many adults did not have the opportunity – and many did not see it as necessary, which was something we wanted to combat.

2. Development of Siop Siarad & Grwp Cymraeg



Grŵp Cymraeg

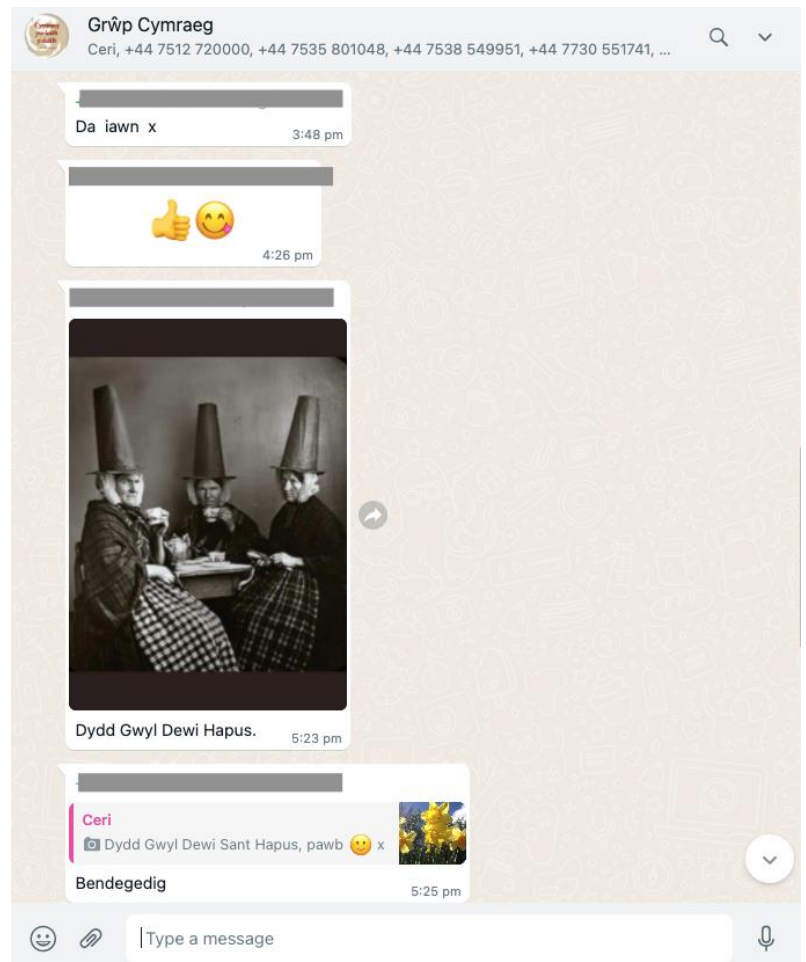
Group · 17 participants

It is always assumed that there are very few Welsh speakers in this area, which is true when compared to the Welsh language heartlands of the Northwest and of places like Caerfyrddin, Caerdydd and Aberystwyth where Welsh is more commonly heard on the streets. The roots of the development of the Welsh speaking pilot scheme at Hay Castle however has its roots in a chance encounter due to a conversation being held in Welsh in the local library in 2018. Mari Fforde, Heritage and Learning Officer at Hay Castle is a Welsh learner and overheard someone speaking Welsh in the library and so started a conversation to try and practice her Welsh. This led to a conversation about the need for a conversation group and so the Grwp Cymraeg was born.

At first connections were made by word of mouth and soon a group had decided to get together to chat every Saturday in Hay library. Occasionally an ex-teacher would attend and would help with grammar and corrections, but the group were generally interested in being able to hold simple conversations and have the ability to meet first language speakers to learn from their chats.

The group does not have a formal membership or structure and has adapted to circumstances such as the closure of the library by meeting in one another's houses and gardens. This was particularly appropriate during the pandemic when outdoor meeting was the only means of getting together to speak Welsh.

The group are still in existence and now exist as Grwp Cymraeg: Cylch y Gelli Gandryll. Organisation and meetings are organised through a WhatsApp group which currently has 17 members who still meet up most Saturday mornings to chat in Welsh. For Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant 2019 an event was held at the Globe in Hay to publicise Welsh speaking and Welsh music. This was done in association with the organisation NAWR and involved Kizzy Crawford singing as well as harpists, Welsh bagpipe players and other local singers. This event was very popular and has proved the audience for further events in the future.



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3. Absolute Beginners Welsh Class

This class took place as part of the Chamber of Commerce organised Independence Weekend in 2019. The class formed part of a week of activities and workshops held across various venues in Hay celebrating its position as a book town and the declaration of independence by Richard Booth on April 1st 1977. The class was advertised as follows:

11:00 – 12:00 Absolute Beginner's Welsh Hay School Free

Come and learn the (very) basics of Welsh in a fun and friendly class with Mari Fforde of *Hay Castle Trust*.

The programme can still be viewed online today: <https://hayonwyechamber.co.uk/indie2019>

Resources were developed for the class, and it served as an excellent pilot to test the audience and receive feedback from attendees. In total 12 people attended the class which was branded as an Arwain event. (The sign-up form is included in the appendices)



As a result of this class Hay Castle Trust were approached by Hay Festival to run Welsh classes during the festival in May/June. Unfortunately, this did not materialize in 2019 due to programme scheduling and the opportunity was missed throughout 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. However, it is planned that this could form part of the festival in the future. This would tie in perfectly with the plans and teachers have been identified who are currently looking for a venue to run classes in Hay.

Below is an Instagram post showing the class.

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haycastletrust · Following
Hay-on-Wye

haycastletrust We ran an Absolute Beginners Welsh Class on Sunday as part of the Independence Weekend. This proved to be very popular with around 20 people attending. The class introduced everyone to the Welsh alphabet, numbers, months and some hard to pronounce place names. Alongside the language there was a little history and quite a few laughs! Many attendees expressed the desire

Liked by jonesandfraser and 54 others

APRIL 8, 2019

Add a comment... Post

4. Articles in Y Fan a'r Lle

Through connections with a Welsh class run by Aberystwyth University in Aberhonddu Mari Fforde contributed articles to the Welsh language magazine, y Fan a'r Lle which was traditionally run as a print edition included with the Brecon and Radnor newspaper but had moved to a private magazine when ownership changes forced the possible closure of the magazine. During 2019 articles featured about events in Y Gelli Gandryll and on the activities of the Welsh conversation group who competed in the Learners Eisteddfod in the Rugby Club in Aberhonddu.

With the upcoming opening of Hay castle and the appointment of a Learning and Activities Manager it is hoped that this article can be restarted as it has not been a feature since 2020.



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5. Filming in Welsh with S4C's Codi Pac

A producer from Codi Pac originally contacted Hay Castle in February 2020 to enquire about the possibility of filming an episode in the Castle. This was seen as an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of the Welsh identity of the site and to encourage use of the Welsh language. Due to Covid the filming was inevitably delayed until it was safe to take place.

Filming eventually took place on 9th June 2021 with presented Rhodri Davies and an all-Welsh crew. It was aired on S4C on 27th August 2021. (See Appendix)

The screenshot shows the BBC S4C website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a search icon, and various menu items: Mewngofnodi, Newyddion, Sport, Tywydd, iPlayer, Sounds, CBBC, Mwy, and Chwilio'r BBC. Below this, the main header features the S4C logo and the programme title 'Codi Pac'. A teal bar below the header contains the words 'Hafan' and 'Penodau'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a large image of Geraint Hardy in a library, with a caption: 'Mae'n ddrwg gennym 'dyw'r bennod yma ddim ar gael ar hyn o bryd'. Below the image is the title 'Gelli Gandryll' and 'Cyfres 4', followed by a short description in Welsh and English: 'Geraint Hardy sydd yn 'Codi Pac' ac yn ymlwbro o gwmpas Cymru, a'r Gelli Gandryll sy'n serennu yr wythnos hon. This time, join Geraint Hardy as he discovers what Hay on Wye has to offer.' and a duration of '24 o funudau'. The right column contains a 'Darllediad diwethaf' section with the S4C logo, the date 'Iau 6 Ion 2022', and the time '18:00'. Below this is a 'Rhagor o benodau' section listing 'BLAENOROL Bala Cyfres 4' and 'NESAF Llandudno Cyfres 4', each with a play button icon. At the bottom of the right column, there is a link: 'Gweld holl benodau Codi Pac'.

6. Day to Day Impacts

We retain a focus on delivering bilingual content as we are required to do, and this runs through our interpretation plan, to our quarterly newsletters, and to all press releases which we issue. In time we hope to recruit Welsh speakers to broaden the reach of our social media and other day to day activities.

7. Legacy

Once again, we are in a situation where what could have been a really positive, practical pilot project has been forced to an early conclusion by a number of factors. First amongst these is Covid, which has meant that for the past two years we have been unable to conduct any safe face to face meetings.

However, in the time that the pilot was running it did achieve the following:

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- 17 people have formed a conversation group and continue to meet weekly to chat in Welsh
- 12 people attended a pilot beginners' Welsh class as part of the Independence celebrations and Hay Festival is interested in running further classes in the future
- A network of Welsh speakers and learners has been established and good connections have been built between them and Hay Castle
- Links have been established with Welsh courses in the area and teachers on these courses including Lisa Jones, Haydn Pugh and Karina Wynn Dafis (Zoom)
- Links have been established with Y Fan a'r Lle and the opportunity exists to pursue this further in the future
- 25,000+ people watched the programme Codi Pac on S4C and associate Hay Castle with the Welsh language

We are focused on resuming the work which we will begin once the Castle moves from project phase to the operational phase. To this end we hope to be able to deliver:

1. Tour guide training for Welsh tour guides. This may not allow tours to be given entirely in Welsh but will allow all guides to greet and thank participants in their own language. We will also aim to recruit at least three Welsh speaking tour guides who will be able to deliver tours in Welsh.
2. Welsh language lessons for residents. This will continue to be a key activity at the Castle once we open.
3. The Grwp Cymraeg have been discussing a booklet for shop owners in Hay to teach them some basic phrases in Welsh so that visitors hear Welsh on the streets

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