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Erthygl i'r Wasg Press Release

Pennod nesaf Stori'r Iaith gyda Lisa Jên o 9Bach

Mewn cyfres ddogfen newydd sbon ar S4C, mae pedwar cyflwynydd yn mynd â ni ar drywydd hanes y Gymraeg a'u perthynas unigryw nhw â'r iaith.

Mae **Stori'r Iaith** yn gyfres o bedair rhaglen wahanol gyda Sean Fletcher, Lisa Jên, Alex Jones ac Elis James yn holi o ble mae'r iaith wedi dod, beth yw ei sefyllfa heddiw a beth fydd ei dyfodol?

Ac yn yr ail raglen, fydd ymlaen ar S4C ar nos Fercher 15 Chwefror, yr actores, y gantores a'r ysgrifenyddiaid adnabyddus o Fethesda, Lisa Jên, fydd yn edrych ar sefyllfa'r Gymraeg ym mro ei mebyd.

Mae'r iaith a'r ardal ble cafodd ei magu yn rhan ganolog o hunaniaeth Lisa, sy'n aelod o'r band poblogaidd 9Bach:

"Mae bob dim dwi'n neud, mae bob dim dwi'n ei greu yn deillio o'r lle yma. Mae o'n dlws, mae o'n gadarn, a dwi'n falch iawn o huna."

Mae ei gwreiddiau hi'n ddwfn ym Methesda. Cafodd ei magu mewn teulu dwyieithog – ei mam o'r dref a'i thad yn Sais – ond Cymraeg oedd iaith y cartref. Felly mae'r tyndra yma rhwng Cymru a Lloegr, a'r Gymraeg a Saesneg, wedi bod yn llinyn cyson trwy ei bywyd. Nid yn unig yn bersonol ond yn y gymuned hefyd:

"Mae Bethesda wedi Seisnigeiddio yn y deg mlynedd ddiwethaf," meddai Lisa. "Mae o'n broblem, a dwi'n poeni."

Mae'r mwyafrif helaeth o drigolion Bethesda yn siarad Cymraeg, ond cynnal hynny yw'r sialens sy'n wynebu'r ardal.

Mi fydd y rhaglen yn olrhain gwreiddiau'r berthynas gymhleth rhwng y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg. Gan gynnwys bwrw golwg arbennig ar un o deddfau cyfansoddiadol mwyaf pwysig Prydain, y Deddfau Uno. Cafodd y deddfau effaith hirdymor ar yr iaith Gymraeg sydd dal i'w teimlo hyd heddiw.

Cawn hefyd glywed gan arbenigwyr am bwysigrwydd Beibl Cymraeg William Morgan, y 'Welsh Not' a'r Llyfrau Gleision, oedd yn adroddiad swyddogol ar gyflwr addysg yng Nghymru a oedd yn ddamniol o'r Gymraeg a'i siaradwyr. Ac mi fydd Lisa yn darganfod gwybodaeth annisgwyl am y bennod honno yn ein hanes.



Yn ogystal â hyn, mi fydd Lisa yn mynd am dro yng nghwmni'r digrifwr a'r darlledwr Tudur Owen, sy'n lysgennad dros y Gymraeg ac yn angerddol am amddiffyn enwau llefydd Cymraeg. Dros y blynyddoedd, mae o wedi sylwi bod rhai o'r hen enwau Cymraeg yn cael eu Seisnigeiddio, er enghraifft Lake Australia yn lle Llyn Bochlwyd, ac mae hyn wedi ei sbarduno Tudur i frwydro yn ôl.

"Mae enw yn gymaint o ran o dy hunaniaeth di...[ac] yn treiddio'n ddwfn i pwy ydan ni." Meddai Tudur, "A mae o yr un peth efo enwau llefydd. Mae enw yn gwreiddio'r lle i hanes ac i'r bobl sydd wedi byw yna, ac felly yn cysylltu ni efo'r llefydd yna."

Mae Tudur yn credu fod gan y Cymry Cymraeg ddyletswydd i barhau i ddefnyddio'r enwau, er mwyn iddynt fod yn allwedd i'r rhai sydd wedi symud yma i fod yn rhan o'r hanes. "Y munud ti'n gwybod be ydi ystyr enw lle – bang! Mae o wedi agor ryw ddimensiwn arall."

Yng nghymunedau'r chwareli ble mae diwylliant, diwydiant a iaith wastad wedi eistedd mor gyfforddus gyda'i gilydd, mae Lisa yn gweld fod y Gymraeg dan fygythiad.

A dros y blynyddoedd, mae hi wedi gorfod cwestiynu ei theimladau tuag at ein cymdogion agosaf a sylweddoli nad yw pethau'n ddu a gwyn o hyd:

"Mae yna hanner ohona i isio cau pawb allan a jyst cadw bob dim yn bur a cadw pethau fel mae o. Ond dwi yn gweld y rhwyg yma yn y gymuned felly dwi'n poeni ein bod ni fel Cymry ddim yn neud digon i wahodd pobl i fewn."

Yn y bennod hon, byddwn yn edrych ar yr heriau economaidd sydd wedi effeithio pentrefi ôl-ddiwydiannol fel Bethesda, a sgil-ffaith hyn ar yr iaith. Mi fydd Lisa yn edrych i weld o ble mae'r tyndra yma wedi dod a sut y mae o wedi siapio'r Gymraeg ar hyd y blynyddoedd ac yn codi cwestiynau heriol am y berthynas rhwng y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.

Nodiadau i Olygyddion:

Rhai o'r unigolion ac arbenigwyr sy'n ymddangos yn y bennod yma yw'r darlithydd a'r hanesydd Martin Johnes, darlithydd a Phennaeth yr Ysgol Gymraeg yn Nghaerdydd, Dylan Foster Evans, y digrifwr Tudur Owen a Gwion Lewis, bargyfreithiwr sy'n arbenigo mewn hawliau iaith. Hefyd, cawn glywed gan ddisgyblion Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Elfed Wyn ap Elwyn, o Drawsffynydd, sy'n ceisio rhoi ei wreiddiau ym mro ei febyd ond mae'n anodd iddo brynu tŷ, a Rhys Iorwerth, y bardd o Gaernarfon, ble mae bron i 90% o'r trigolion yn siarad Cymraeg.

Stori'r Iaith

Nos Fercher 15 Chwefror 9.00, S4C

Ar alw: S4C Clic, iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill

Cynhyrchiad Rondo Media ar gyfer S4C



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The next episode of Stori'r Iaith with 9Bach's Lisa Jên

In a brand-new documentary series on S4C, four presenters will take us on a journey through the history of the Welsh language and their unique relationship with the language.

Stori'r Iaith is a series of four different programmes with Sean Fletcher, Lisa Jên, Alex Jones and Elis James asking where the language has come from, what's the situation today and what will its future be?

And in the second episode, on S4C on Wednesday 15 February, the well-known actress, singer and writer from Bethesda, Lisa Jên, will look at the Welsh language situation in her childhood.

For Lisa, who is a member of the popular band 9Bach, the language and the area where she grew up is a central part of her identity:

"Everything I do, everything I create comes from this place. It's beautiful, it's strong, and I'm very proud of it."

Her roots are deep in Bethesda. She was brought up in a bilingual family - her mother from the town and her father from England - but the language in the house was Welsh. This tension between Wales and England, and the Welsh and English languages, has been a constant thread throughout her life. Not just personally but in the community too:

"Bethesda has become anglicised in the last ten years," said Lisa. "It's a problem, and I'm worried."

Most of Bethesda's residents speak Welsh but maintaining that is a challenge.

This programme will trace the roots of the complicated relationship between the Welsh and English languages. Including taking a special look at one of Britain's most important constitutional laws, the Acts of Union. These laws had a long-term affect on the Welsh language that are still being felt today.

We also hear from experts about the importance of William Morgan's Welsh language Bible, the 'Welsh Not' and the Blue Books, an official report on the state of education in Wales which was damning of the Welsh language and its speakers. And Lisa will discover some unexpected information from that chapter in our history.



In addition to this, Lisa will go for a walk with comedian and broadcaster Tudur Owen, who is an ambassador for the Welsh language and is passionate about protecting Welsh placenames. Over the years he's noticed that impressive Welsh names are being anglicised, for example Lake Australia instead of Llyn Bochlwyd, and this has made him want to fight back.

"A name is such an important part of your identity...[and] is rooted deeply into who we are," Tudur said. "And its the same with the place names. A name roots the place to history and to the people who have lived there and connects us with those places."

Tudur believes that Welsh speakers have a duty to continue using these names, so they can be a key for those who have moved to the area. "The minute you know what the name of a place means - bang! It has opened up another dimension."

In the quarry communities where culture, industry and language have always sat so comfortably together, Lisa sees that the Welsh language is under threat.

And over the years, she has had to question her dislike of our nearest neighbours and realise that things are not always black and white:

"One half of me wants to shut everyone out and keep everything pure and as they are. But I see this rift in the community so I'm worried that we as Welsh people aren't doing enough to invite people in."

In this episode, we will look at the economic challenges that have affected post-industrial villages like Bethesda, and the side effect this has had on the language. Lisa will look to see where this tension has come from, how it has shaped the Welsh language throughout the years and will raise challenging questions about the relationship between the Welsh and English languages.

Notes to Editor

Some of the individuals and experts who appear in this episode are the lecturer and historian Martin Johnes, lecturer and Head of School of Welsh in Cardiff, Dylan Foster Evans, the comedian Tudur Owen and Gwion Lewis, a barrister who specializes in language rights. We will also hear from Dyffryn Ogwen School pupils, Elfed Wyn ap Elwyn, from Trawsfynydd, who is trying to put his roots in his hometown, where it's difficult for him to buy a house, and Rhys Iorwerth, the poet from Caernarfon, where almost 90% of the residents speak Welsh.

Stori'r Iaith

Wednesday 15 February, 9.00pm

English subtitles available

On demand: S4C Clic, iPlayer and other platforms

A Rondo Media production for S4C