



13/04/23

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Erthygl i'r Wasg Press Release

'Profiad fydd yn aros `da fi am byth' – Heledd Cynwal sy'n dilyn ôl troed y porthmyn yn Llundain

"Roedd gweld y wlad a'r ddinas ochr yn ochr â'i gilydd - Tower Bridge ar un ochr a bysys coch a thacsis du eiconig Llundain yn rhedeg ochr yn ochr â'r defaid, wel, oedd e jest yn profiad fydd yn aros `da fi am byth," meddai Heledd Cynwal, wrth iddi ddisgrifio'r profiad o ddilyn ôl troed y porthmyn yn y gyfres **Cynefin** ar S4C.

Er nad yw'n beth cyffredin erbyn hyn i weld praidd o ddefaid yn croesi un o bontydd mwyaf eiconig Llundain, ar un adeg cafodd mwy na 300,000 o anifeiliaid eu cerdded i'r ddinas gan y porthmyn. Mae'r fasnach amaethyddol wedi bodoli rhwng Cymru a Llundain ers y drydedd ganrif ar ddeg pan fyddai'r porthmyn yn gwerthu'r anifeiliaid ar ran y ffermwyr ynghanol dinas Llundain.

Y cysylltiad cynnar iawn yma rhwng y Cymry a Llundain fydd yn cael sylw tîm **Cynefin** - Heledd Cynwal, Dr Iestyn Jones a Siôn Tomos Owen - yn y rhaglen nos Sul, 23 Ebrill.

Unwaith y flwyddyn mae cyfle i ddod â'r traddodiad yma yn fyw drwy gerdded defaid dros y bont - digwyddiad a gafodd ei atgyfodi 10 mlynedd yn ôl.

"Maen nhw'n gwneud e nawr fel sioe mewn gwirionedd, ac mae yna gymaint o waith paratoi achos maen nhw'n cau'r bont yn llythrennol ac mae pawb yn cael slot o ryw 10 munud i groesi," esbonia Heledd.

"Roedd pobl yn stopio i edrych a meddwl 'beth yn y byd sy'n digwydd?' ond roedd lot fawr o ddiddordeb a dyna beth oedd yn braf - bod hynny'n dechrau sgwrs a chodi chwilfrydedd, ac wedyn gallu dweud mwy am hanes y porthmyn, a'r cysylltiad masnachu rhwng Cymru a Llundain. Roedd rhywbeth arbennig iawn am allu dod â chanrifoedd o hanes yn ôl yn fyw."

Er mwyn cymryd rhan yn y ddefod arbennig yma mae'n rhaid bod yn *Freeman of the City* – teitl anrhydeddus sy'n caniatáu i bobl gerdded defaid dros y bont. Ar gyfer y digwyddiad mae Heledd yn cael cwmni'r amaethwr a *Freeman of the City* Aled Davies o Landeilo.



“Roedd y porthmyn yn gorfod croesi pont Llundain i fynd i ganol y ddinas a fyn’na oedd y prynu a’r gwerthu i gyd yn digwydd. Wnaethon ni ddilyn ôl troed y porthmyn dros y bont ac roedd e jest yn olygfa mor drawiadol achos bod pethau wedi newid cymaint dros y blynyddoedd,” meddai Heledd.

Byddai’r porthmyn yn gorfod talu i groesi’r bont i fasnachu ond os oedden nhw’n *Freeman of the City* bydden nhw’n cael gwneud hynny am ddim, ar ôl iddyn nhw fwrw prentisiaeth City & Guilds.

“Ar ôl cael y teitl a dangos eu bod nhw wedi cwblhau eu prentisiaeth roedden nhw wedyn yn cael yr hawl i groesi am ddim dros bont Llundain,” eglura Heledd.

Yn ystod y rhaglen fe fydd Heledd hefyd yn olrhain hanes un o gyfnodau mwyaf llewyrchus y Cymry yn Llundain sef Oes y Palmant Aur pan oedd amaethwyr yn amlwg iawn yn y diwydiant llaeth yn y ddinas. Yn yr 1850au roedd galw mawr am ffermwyr llaeth profiadol ac roedd dros 1,700 o laethdai ar un adeg a tua 24,000 o wartheg yn pori mewn caeau yn y ddinas!

Y gohebydd seneddol Eiliw Gwawr fydd yn tywys Heledd o gwmpas Tŷ’r Arglwyddi yn San Steffan ac yn adrodd hanes rhai o ferched Cymru fu’n chwarae rhan allweddol yn symudiad y Swffragetaid.

“Gawson ni weld casgliad personol Kate Williams Evans o Lansantffraid [ym Mhowys]. Fe fu hi yn y carchar yn Holloway ac roedd wedi ymprydio, ac fe gawson ni weld ei llythyron, a cherddi oedd hi wedi ysgrifennu yn y carchar, a’i medal ymprydio. Roedd e’n arbennig iawn i allu bod mor agos at ddogfennau sydd wedi rhoi cymaint o ryddid i ni fel merched heddiw a hynny mewn cyfnod pan oedd hi mor anodd i ferched godi llais,” meddai Heledd.

Crwydro mewn caiac ar yr Afon Tafwys gyda’r nos fydd Iestyn Jones, wrth iddo olrhain hanes New River, campwaith peirianyddol y Cymro o Ddinbych, Hugh Myddleton, fu’n gyfrifol am ddod a dŵr glân i bobl Llundain dros 400 mlynedd yn ôl.

A chael ei anfon i Dŵr Llundain mae Siôn Tomos Owen, i weld y celloedd lle carcharwyd rhai o dywysogion Cymru. Un o uchafbwyntiau’r gyfres iddo oedd cael mynd i’r Tŵr yn gynnar yn y bore pan oedd fawr neb arall o gwmpas.

“Er bod y pwnc ddim yn un neis iawn i Gymro, beth wnes i fwynhau (fel rhywun sydd ddim yn rhy hoff o ffws a ffwdan dinasoedd) oedd bod yn Nhŵr Llundain am 6 y bore pan oedd neb arall yna, dim ymwelwyr a braidd dim staff chwaith. Roedd cael y profiad o wneud rhywbeth s’dim llawer o bobol yn cael, sef bod mewn cyrchfan boblogaidd iawn ond heb y twristiaid, yn un diddorol iawn,” meddai Siôn.



I gyd-fynd gyda'r bennod arbennig yma o **Cynefin**, bydd Tudur Owen yn y ddinas hefyd, ac yn holi, tybed oes gyda ni'r Cymry yr hawl i fynnu ein bod yn defnyddio Yr Wyddfa, ac nid Snowdon, neu Aberteifi yn lle Cardigan. Yna, fe fydd yn mynd i brifddinas Lloegr, a'i galw'n Llundain, nid London! Bydd Tudur yn esbonio ei deimladau am hyn ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol yn dilyn y bennod hon o **Cynefin** nos Sul.

Cynefin

Nos Sul, 23 Ebrill, S4C, 8.00yh

Isdeitlau Saesneg

Ar alw: S4C Clic, iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill

Cynhyrchiad Rondo Media ar gyfer S4C

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Erthygl i'r Wasg Press Release

'A once in a lifetime experience' – Heledd Cynwal follows in the footsteps of the drovers in London

"Seeing the country and the city juxtaposed - Tower Bridge on one side and London's iconic red buses and black taxis running alongside the sheep, well, that was a sight that will stay with me for the rest of my life," says Heledd Cynwal, as she recalls the experience of following in the footsteps of the drovers in the S4C series **Cynefin**.

Although you wouldn't expect to see a flock of sheep crossing one of London's most iconic bridges these days, at one time more than 300,000 animals were walked into the city by the drovers. The agricultural trade between Wales and London has existed since the thirteenth century when the drovers would sell the animals on behalf of the farmers in the city of London.

It is this very early connection between Wales and London that will be the focus of the **Cynefin** team - Heledd Cynwal, Dr Iestyn Jones and Siôn Tomos Owen - in the programme on Sunday evening, 23 April.

Once a year this tradition is brought to life by walking sheep over the bridge - an event that was revived 10 years ago.



"They do it now more for show really, and there is so much preparation because they literally close the bridge and everyone gets a slot of about 10 minutes to cross," explains Heledd.

"People were stopping to look and thinking 'what on earth is going on?' but there was a lot of interest and that's what was so great about it - that it started a conversation and aroused curiosity, and then we were able to say more about the history of the drovers, and the trading link between Wales and London. There was something very special about being able to bring centuries of history back to life."

Only a Freeman of the City is allowed to take part in this special event - an honorary title that allows people to walk sheep over the bridge. Heledd is joined by farmer and Freeman of the City Aled Davies from Llandeilo for the event.

"The drovers had to cross London Bridge to go into the heart of the city and that's where all the buying and selling took place. We followed the footsteps of the drovers over the bridge and it was just such an impressive sight because things have changed so much over the years," said Heledd.

The drovers would have to pay to cross the bridge to trade but if they were a Freeman of the City they would be allowed to do so for free, after they had completed their City & Guilds apprenticeship.

"After getting the title and showing that they had completed their apprenticeship they were then given the right to cross London Bridge for free," explains Heledd.

During the programme Heledd will also trace the history of one of the most prosperous periods of the Welsh in London, when farmers were very prominent in the dairy industry in the city. In the 1850s there was a great demand for experienced dairy farmers and there were over 1,700 dairies at one time and around 24,000 cows grazing in fields in the city!

Parliamentary correspondent Eiliw Gwawr will guide Heledd around the House of Lords in Westminster and recount the history of some of the Welsh women who played a key role in the Suffragette movement.

"We saw the personal correspondence of Kate Williams Evans from Llansantffraid [in Powys]. She was in Holloway prison and had gone on a hunger strike, and we got to see her letters, the poems she had written in prison, and her hunger strike medal. It was incredible to be able to see documents that have given us, as women, so much freedom today and at a time when it was so difficult for women to speak up," said Heledd.

Iestyn Jones will be kayaking on the River Thames at night, as he traces the history of New River, the engineering masterpiece of the Welshman from Denbigh, Hugh



Myddleton, who was responsible for bringing clean water to the people of London over 400 years ago.

Meanwhile Siôn Tomos Owen is sent to the Tower of London, to see the cells where some of the princes of Wales were imprisoned. One of the highlights of the series for Siôn was being allowed to enter the Tower early in the morning when hardly anyone else was around.

"Although the subject is not a very nice one for us in Wales, what I enjoyed (as someone who is not too fond of the hustle and bustle of cities) was being in the Tower of London at 6 in the morning when there was no one else around, no visitors and hardly any staff. Having the experience of doing something that not many people get to do - being in a very popular tourist attraction but without the tourists - was incredible," said Siôn.

To coincide with this special episode of **Cynefin**, Tudur Owen will also be in the city, asking if we in Wales have the right to demand the use of Yr Wyddfa, and not Snowdon, or Aberteifi instead of Cardigan. Tudur will then travel to the capital, and call it Llundain, not London! Tudur will explain his feelings about this on social media following this episode of **Cynefin** on Sunday night.

Cynefin

Sunday, 23 April, S4C, 8.00pm

(English subtitles available)

On demand: S4C Clic, iPlayer and other platforms

A Rondo Media production for S4C



(Programme title)

(Date, time)

(English subtitles available)

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