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Erthygl i'r Wasg Press Release

Dathlu'r Deugain: Ail-ymweld â Plant y Sianel ar drothwy pen-blwydd arbennig

Mae 2022 yn golygu fod S4C yn dathlu ei phen-blwydd yn 40 oed. Pan roedd y sianel yn 10, 20 a 30 oed, fe aeth Beti George o gwmpas Cymru i gwrdd â rhai o'r plant oedd yn rhannu'r un pen-blwydd gan ofyn pwy oedd eu harwyr, beth oedd eu diddordebau a beth oedd eu gobeithion ar gyfer y dyfodol? Nawr, mae'n bryd i Beti ailymweld â nhw. Ar ôl degawd heriol, tybed i ble mae llwybr bywyd wedi mynd â nhw erbyn hyn?

Un o'r criw yw Michael Taggart. Degawd yn ôl roedd Michael yn gweithio gyda'r heddlu yn ymateb i alwadau brys. Bellach mae'n arwain tîm sy'n arloesi ym maes atal trais yn y cartref. Pwnc sy'n agos iawn at ei galon.

Ym 1998, pan roedd Michael yn 15 mlwydd oed, fe drodd ei fywyd ben i waered. Cafodd ei fam ei llofruddio gan ei lys-dad. Mae o'n cofio nol i'r diwrnod pan gafodd y newyddion ofnadwy:

"Dwi'n cofio oedd popeth jyst wedi mynd yn hollol ddu...Nes i jyst rhedeg lawr y *prom* - o'n i jyst ddim eisiau bod hefo'r ddau ddyn o'n i ddim yn nabod, oedd yn dweud wrtho fi fod mam wedi marw."

Gobaith Michael yw y bydd ei waith gyda'r Heddlu yn stopio'r fath drasiedi rhag digwydd i unrhyw un arall. Eleni, derbyniodd MBE am ei wasanaeth i ddioddefwyr trais yn y cartref.

Er na all anghofio'r gorffennol, mae Michael wedi llwyddo i ailadeiladu ei fywyd a ffeindio hapusrwydd unwaith eto gyda help ei ŵr Gary. Yn ystod y ddegawd ddiwethaf, mae Michael wedi bod yn gweld Seiciatrydd i'w helpu gydag effeithiau Anhwylder Straen Wedi Trawma (*Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*).

"Dwi byth am fod yn hollol *mental health free*, mae o'n rhywbeth sydd am fod yn fy mywyd o hyd rwan maen nhw'n dweud, oherwydd beth sydd wedi digwydd."

Un arall o Blant y Sianel yw Karl Jones. Ugain mlynedd yn ôl, roedd ei yrfa yn mynd o nerth i nerth ac roedd yn byw a gweithio yn Irac ac Affganistan fel aelod o'r Morlu Brenhinol.

Fe aeth i weithio fel gwarchodwr personol – swydd sydd ddim i'r gwangalon gyda rocedi a bwledi yn saethu'n gyson i'w gyfeiriad. Roedd yn agos iawn at farwolaeth sawl tro, gan gynnwys dau fws yn ffrwydro yn agos i'w gerbyd, a darganfod wedyn fod dros 40 o bobl wedi marw.

Yna, ddeng mlynedd yn ôl roedd yn Bennaeth ar ei gwmni ei hun, yn amddiffyn llongau rhag mor-ladron oddi ar arfordir Somalia. Gwaith peryglus ble roedd herwgipio ac arfau peryglus yn fygythiad beunyddiol.

Mae pennod diweddaraf Plant y Sianel yn dod o hyd iddo ym Mharis. Erbyn hyn mae ganddo wraig a dau o feibion, ac er ei fod yn dal i weithio yn y diwydiant diogelwch mae mewn rôl sydd tipyn saffach erbyn hyn! Mae bywyd yn sicr wedi tawelu i Karl.

"Dwi'n mynd adre bob dydd, cael coffi a *croissant* efo fy ngwraig. Dwi'n hoffi mynd i'r parc efo Rio a dwi'n hoffi chwarae ar y cyfrifiadur efo Rocco. Mae'n fywyd gwahanol ond dwi ddim yn meddwl bo fi wedi newid."

Mae Karl yn mwynhau bywyd ym Mharis ac er bod y cyfleoedd i siarad Cymraeg yn fwy prin erbyn hyn, mae Cymru a'r Gymraeg dal yn bwysig iawn iddo:

"Byddwn i'n dweud bod dim un wlad yn well na byw yng Nghymru."

Yn ogystal â Karl a Michael, bydd Beti George yn cwrdd eto a sawl un o'r grŵp yma o Gymry a aned yn yr un flwyddyn a'r sianel. Gan gynnwys Glesni Haf Arfon-Powell sydd wedi gwireddu breuddwyd plentyndod o fod yn filfeddyg, Dafydd Siôn Jones-Davies sydd wedi ffeindio'i le mewn bywyd a Rachel Anderson sydd ar drothwy pennod newydd, gyffrous yn ei bywyd. Unigolion y mae Beti wedi dod i'w hadnabod yn dda dros y degawdau diwethaf.

"Mae'n anodd credu bod degawd arall wedi pasio ers i fi eu gweld ddiwethaf," meddai Beti, "Eleni maen nhw, fel y sianel, yn dathlu eu penblwydd yn bedwardeg oed, a dwi'n edrych mlaen i'w gweld unwaith eto ac i glywed eu hanes a ble maen nhw arni erbyn hyn."

Dyma'r genhedlaeth sydd wedi tyfu i fyny gyda S4C. A gyda'r plant a'r sianel ar drothwy carreg filltir arbennig, pa straeon sydd ganddyn nhw wrth i ddegawd arall yn eu bywydau ddirwyn i ben?

Plant y Sianel
Nos Fawrth 1 Tachwedd 9.00, S4C
Isdeitlau Cymraeg a 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**

Celebrating the big 40: Revisiting 'Plant y Sianel' on a special birthday

2022 means that S4C celebrates its 40th birthday. And when the channel was 10, 20 and 30 years old, Beti George went around Wales to meet some of the children who shared the same birthday asking who their heroes were, what were their interests and their hopes for the future. Now, its time for Beti to revisit them. After a challenging decade, we'll see where life's path has taken them by now.

One of the crew is Michael Taggart. A decade ago, Michael was working in the emergency response team. Now, he leads a team that pioneers in the prevention of domestic violence – a subject that is very close to his heart.

In 1998, when Michael was 15 years old, his life turned upside down. His mother was murdered by his stepfather. He recalls the day when he received the terrible news:

"I remember everything just went completely black...I just ran down the prom - I didn't want to be with two men I didn't know, who told me that my mother had died."

Michael's hope is that his work with the police will stop the same tragedy happening to somebody else. This year, he was awarded an MBE for his services to victims of domestic violence.

Although he won't be able to forget his past, Michael has rebuilt his life and found happiness once again with help from his husband, Gary. During the last decade, Michael has been seeing a psychiatrist to help him with affects from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder:

"I'll never be completely mental health free, it's something that will be in my life now because of what has happened."

Another child of the channel is Karl Jones. Twenty years ago, his career was going from strength to strength, and he was living and working in Iraq and Afghanistan as a member of the Royal Marines.

He also worked as a bodyguard - a job not for the faint-hearted with rockets and bullets constantly shooting in his direction. He was close to death several times, including when two buses exploded near his vehicle. He discovered later that over 40 people had died.

Then, 10 years ago, he was the head of his own company, protecting ships from pirates off the coast of Somalia. Dangerous work where kidnapping and deadly weapons were a daily threat.

This latest episode of **Plant y Sianel** finds Karl in Paris. By now he has a wife and two boys, and even though he still works in the security industry, he’s in a much safer role now! Life has certainly calmed down for Karl:

“I go home every day, have a coffee and a *croissant* with my wife. I like to go to the park with Rio and play on the computer with Rocco. It’s a different life but I don’t think I’ve changed.”

Karl enjoys life in Paris and although opportunities to speak Welsh are rarer now, Wales and the Welsh language are still very important to him:

“I would say that no other country is better than living in Wales.”

As well as Karl and Michael, Beti George will meet more of this group of Welsh people that were born in the same year as S4C. Including Glesni Haf Arfon-Powell who has fulfilled her dream of becoming a vet, Dafydd Siôn Jones-Davies who has found his place in life and Rachel Anderson who is on the verge of a new, exciting chapter of her life. Individuals that Beti has come to know well over the past decades.

"It's hard to believe that another decade has passed since I last saw them," said Beti, "This year they, like the channel, are celebrating their fortieth birthday, and I'm looking forward to seeing them once again, hearing their stories and seeing where they are now."

This is the generation that has grown up with S4C. And with the children and the channel on the brink of a special milestone, what stories do they have as another decade in their lives draws to a close?

Plant y Sianel
Tuesday 1 November 9.00pm, S4C
Welsh and English subtitles available
On demand: S4C Clic, iPlayer and other platforms
A Rondo Media production for S4C