



# WALES IS... GALLERY



ST FAGANS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

# Wales is... not always welcoming

These are the bones of a man aged 25-35 and a boy aged 9-14 years old. They were found buried outside Llanbedrgoch in Anglesey. They date back to around the year 900.

Llanbedrgoch was an important trading post at a time when Vikings were raiding Anglesey. It was thought that the bodies were those of native Welsh people, but recent scientific analysis suggests they were Vikings. The bodies were thrown on top of each other, raising questions about how they died and who buried them. There is evidence of injuries that happened at the time of death, which raises even more questions.

A number of burials have been discovered outside the trading centre at Llanbedrgoch. What does this tell us about relations between the native Welsh people and the Vikings?

## Themes...

Wales and Immigration, Invasions of Wales, Industry and Trade, Archaeology

## Discussion...

Are Welsh people more welcoming today?

What do you think happened to these individuals?

Is it ever ok to use violence?

How important is trade in Wales today?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... Partly Roman; Well connected

## Also visit...

### **Celtic Warrior Grave workshop (KS2 + KS3)**

This is a facilitator-led session where you can find out how archaeologists discover stories from the past by exploring the Celtic Warrior Grave. This session is an opportunity to identify how we can learn about the past through primary and secondary evidence, what archaeology is, how excavations are carried out, what is in the burial and also what may not have survived.

# Wales is... partly Roman

It took over 30,000 Roman troops to conquer Wales. From accounts written by the Romans, we know that some native tribes strongly resisted the Roman invaders. Others seem to have given in more quickly and welcomed the advantages that the Romans brought with them.

Roman written accounts are the beginnings of Welsh history. Our first glimpse of the tribes that existed here are through Roman eyes.

Over 350 years of occupation the Romans brought writing, a money economy and access to the culture and commodities of the Classical World. There are many words in Welsh that come from Latin, the Roman language. The Latin words in Welsh cover a wide range of themes from days of the week to types of food.

The objects in this case include money, an army standard, a writing tablet and a bronze cup imported from Italy. The hoard of native and Roman objects shows the two different cultures coming together. On the other side of the case is a quern stone, which was operated by a donkey to grind grain into flour.

## Themes...

Invasions of Wales, Welsh Identity, Archaeology

## Discussion...

Can we trust Roman written accounts of the native tribes?

How much did life change for the average native person after the Roman conquest?

Do you recognise any words on the stone carving?

Do you know any Welsh words that come from Latin?

Why are there Latin words in Welsh?

What aspects of modern Wales started during the Roman period?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... well connected; sacred places; still speaking Welsh

## Also visit...

### Bryn Eryr

Bryn Eryr was a small Iron Age farmstead near Llansadwrn in the eastern corner of Anglesey. These roundhouses are recreations based on the archaeology of the original houses. Houses like these were lived in by wealthy farmers just before the Romans conquered Wales in AD 60. By the time the Romans left the site had been abandoned.

# Wales is.... protesting

The women's suffrage movement operated in Britain from the mid-1860s until equal voting rights for men and some women was achieved in 1928. Militant suffragettes and law-abiding suffragists from Wales played a huge role in the movement, which saw some of the most widely publicised clashes between demonstrators and the authorities outside London.

Pamphlets and annual reports of the Cardiff and District Women's Society show the range of activities undertaken by this group and the make-up of their membership. By 1912-3, the Cardiff and District Women's Suffrage Society was the largest women's suffrage society outside London. Wales was highly active and influential in the campaign to win women the vote.

Objectors to votes for women tried to convince people that the female mind was unable to understand politics. When this failed they resorted to tactics such as sending 'voodoo dolls' like the one in this exhibition. Some went as far as attacking or spitting on women activists in the streets. The anti-suffrage movement used images such as this in cartoons and posters. They ridiculed and insulted women who wanted the right to vote.

These views were an extension of the idea that 'a woman's place is in the home'. Women were frequently shown as needing protection from the 'man's world' of work and politics. Their role was to look after their husbands, homes and children.

## Themes...

Democracy and Equal Rights, Protest

## Discussion...

Do women have equal rights in Wales today? Are men and women paid equally?  
Is it right to use violent or unlawful means to protest?  
Would you have been a suffragette or a suffragist?  
Is voting important? Should it be compulsory?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... drowned out; still speaking Welsh

## Also visit...

### The Tollhouse

In response to extortionately high tolls on the turnpike roads, men in areas of south-west Wales dressed up as women and attacked tollhouses. People lived in and made a living from working in the tollhouses. Was it right to destroy their homes? The tolls were eventually made fairer for farmers and people for whom the roads were essential. Did the end justify the means?

# Wales is... scarred by war

An estimated 272,000 Welshmen fought in the First World War and 32,000 lost their lives. Almost every village, town and parish had its list of war dead. Wales lost a generation of young men. For those who came home from the trenches, life would never be the same again. Their injuries were psychological as well as physical. The mental scars of war were not fully understood.

The Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) scheme trained volunteers in basic nursing skills. They were needed at auxiliary hospitals to help wounded soldiers returning from the front line. The first VAD detachment in Wales was formed at St Fagans. One of the cases shows items and photos from the hospital at St Fagans and includes objects made by a recovering soldier. During the War, communities raised funds to support the troops. They sent parcels of food, cigarettes and socks to the trenches. 'Welcome Home' events were organized for soldiers on leave.

On the front line, army chaplains or padres became father figures to young soldiers. They comforted and guided them through the horrors of war. Objects from both the front line and home front can also be seen here.

## Themes...

War, Mental Health Well-being, Beliefs

## Discussion...

Is war ever justified?

How would people's experience during the War affect their mental health?

How would you remember people that have fought in wars?

Auxiliary nurses were mostly volunteers and not paid, was this fair?

How does making objects help with a soldier's recovery?

How would a soldier feel receiving a package from home?

What role would religion have played in the lives of a front line soldier?

In what way did society change after the War?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... protesting; Llywelyn and Glyndŵr

## Also visit...

### St Fagans Castle

The enamelling room in the Italian Garden was used as a recreation space for the recovering soldiers. Next to this are the remains of the hall where the hospital was situated. The gardens themselves offered a peaceful space for them to recover.

### Llwyn-yr-eos Farmhouse

The building is furnished as it would have appeared around the First World War. The

farm was in operation during this period and would have had the Women's Land Army helping to run the farm.

### **Rhyd-y-car houses**

Visit the fourth house on the terrace to see how a house would have looked in the years following the First World War.

### **Newbridge War Memorial**

The cenotaph was donated to the Museum in 1995 when a new memorial garden was opened in Newbridge town centre.

# Wales is... wealthy

Wales has had its share of wealthy families and landowners. These clothes were worn in the 1720s by Sir William and Lady Rachel Morgan – the wealthy owners of Tredegar House, Newport. The Morgans were among the most powerful landowners in Wales. They exploited the mineral wealth of their lands by promoting the establishment of coal mines and ironworks, together with the construction of canals and tramways to transport the minerals.

The dress in the case belonged to Lady Rachel Morgan. With its fine detail and material, it would have cost a very large amount of money. The material and layers are carefully crafted to produce the right silhouette, and send out the right message.

This style of dress is called a court mantua. Its grandness implies that it was worn in the presence of royalty – for a ceremony at the royal court. It may have been Lady Rachel's wedding dress. It was common for aristocratic women to wear their wedding dresses to court to publically announce their marriage.

Sir William and Lady Rachel looked to London and Paris for the latest in fashion and good taste. They had a reputation for extravagance. Their annual expenditure in 1725 was £37,418 – almost £4 million in today's money. The affluence on display here is at odds with the myth that Wales is not a wealthy country.

## Themes...

Wealth and Poverty, Craft and Skill, 18<sup>th</sup> Century Wales

## Discussion...

300 years ago, the Tredegar family spent £37,418 in one year – £4m today. The average income in Wales in April 2017 was £25,917 per year. How does this make you feel?

Is the wealth shared more equally in today's society?

Is it fair for people to make so much money?

Do you think you could spend this much money?

Is Wales a country of wealthy people?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... Llywelyn and Glyndŵr; well connected

## Also visit...

### The Tailor's Shop

Explore the art and skill of making clothes at the Tailor's Shop. This is a small rural shop and workshop, however becoming a tailor took seven years of training and honing your skills.

### St Fagans Castle

Discover portraits of Elizabethan noble people, and what they wore in their portraits.  
Explore the home of wealthy landowners.

# Wales is... still speaking Welsh

A Celtic language, Welsh is related to Cornish, Breton and Gaelic. In the shadow of the English language Welsh has struggled to survive, despite people having spoken the language for at least 1,500 years. However, between the union of England and Wales in 1536 and the Welsh Language Act of 1967, the Welsh Language had no official status. Ultimately, official status was achieved by protest and campaigning.

It was fashionable to decorate clothes with symbols as a form of campaigning in the 1970s. An example of this is the shirt in the case for this section which is decorated with the symbol for the Welsh-language movements *Cymdeithas yr Iaith* and *Adfer*. Despite the success of such campaigns and movements there are still things that Welsh speakers cannot do in their preferred first language.

The Census of 2011 showed that on the whole the number of Welsh speakers has continued to decrease. Despite this, there are some areas, such as Cardiff, where the language is on the rise.

## Themes...

Welsh Identity, Independent Wales, Protest

## Discussion...

Should all Welsh people be able to speak Welsh?

Should learning Welsh in schools in Wales be compulsory?

Should all schools in Wales be bilingual?

Is there value in speaking Welsh?

Do you have to speak Welsh to be considered Welsh?

Are other Celtic languages in a similar situation to the Welsh language?

Why do you think the number of Welsh speakers in Cardiff has increased where other areas have seen a decrease?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... protesting; coal; drowned out; independent

## Also visit...

### Ysgol Maestir

Ysgol Maestir is an example of a rural schoolhouse, set out as it would have been in Victorian times. The school consists of one classroom with an assortment of desks for pupils from the ages of 5 through to 14. In Welsh schools in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the Welsh Not was used to improve pupils' knowledge of the English language. The Welsh Not, a small piece of wood, as seen in the case, was given to pupils who were caught speaking Welsh. Whoever had the Welsh Not at the end of the week was severely punished.

# Wales is... sacred places

Llyn Cerrig Bach, a lake on Anglesey, was a sacred place 2,000 years ago.

Over hundreds of years, people cast their treasured possessions into its waters. Weapons, chariot parts, tools and cauldrons were offered up to their gods and spirits. Roman historians tell us that Anglesey at this time was a stronghold of Druid priests.

The Iron Age objects on display were found at the bottom of Llyn Cerrig Bach. Over 150 objects were discovered as RAF Valley airbase was being extended for American bombers during the Second World War. One of the objects that led to the discovery was a Roman slave-chain. Thinking that it was junk, the workers used the slave-chain to drag the vehicles out of the bog!

When archaeologist Sir Cyril Fox at the National Museum was contacted, he realised the importance of Llyn Cerrig Bach as an ancient sacred place.

## Themes...

Beliefs, Slavery, Archaeology

## Discussion...

Can we trust Roman written accounts of the druids?

Who do you think made these offerings?

How have religious practices changed since the Iron Age?

Do we still put offerings into water?

What place is special to you?

How would it feel to wear the slave chain?

Can we judge ancient societies for having slaves?

How did the Museum decide which objects to display out the 150 found in the lake?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... partly Roman; Llywelyn and Glyndwr

## Also visit...

### Bryn Eryr

Bryn Eryr was a small Iron Age farmstead near Llansadwrn in the eastern corner of Anglesey. These roundhouses are reconstructions based on the archaeology of the original houses. Houses like these were lived in by wealthy farmers just before the Romans conquered Wales in AD 60.

### St Teilo's Church

St Teilo's Church has been refurbished as it may have appeared around the year 1530, complete with all the elements associated with a late medieval Catholic

church, including brightly coloured paintings on all the walls.

**Pen-rhiw Chapel**

Probably first built as a barn during the mid-eighteenth century, the building was acquired in 1777 by the Unitarians for use as a meeting house or chapel.

# Wales is... well connected

Today, innovations travel via airwaves and airways. In the Bronze Age, it was the sea that connected communities across Europe.

Ships travelled along the Atlantic coastlines from Spain to Ireland. They enabled people to exchange metals, new technologies and ideas. Nowhere is this illustrated better than through gold and how it was shaped and shared as a prized new metal.

The objects in the case are high-status items from the Bronze Age made from gold and bronze.

The Caergwrle Bowl has a rare representation of a Bronze Age ship. We think the zig-zags around the base are waves and the long triangles are oars. The eye symbol protected sailors. The circles are the shields of its heroic voyager.

It speaks of connections: shale from Dorset, tin from Cornwall and gold from Ireland or Wales. It was placed beside the River Alun, which flows towards the Irish Sea.

## Themes...

Industry and Trade, Technology, Transport, Wealth and Poverty, Archaeology

## Discussion...

How would people trade goods without money?

How did people display their wealth before gold was used?

Why do you think these high-value objects were buried in the ground?

What is the most valued object you own?

How are goods transported to Wales now?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of importing goods from around the world?

What goods are exported from Wales today?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... wealthy; partly Roman; sacred places; coal

## Also visit...

### Bryn Eryr

Bryn Eryr was a small Iron Age farmstead. During the Bronze and Iron Ages in Britain, roundhouses were the most common form of home. Items displayed within the houses are from the Iron Age but the appearance of the house itself would be similar to one in the Bronze Age.

### Bronze Age Barrow

We have recreated a Bronze Age Barrow with cremated remains buried with replica objects from the time. See if you can spot it in the field behind Cilewent Farmhouse.

### **Tudor Trader's House**

This small late-medieval house comes from Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. Its original location near the old quay on the tidal River Cleddau suggests that it may have been the home of a trader. The owner probably bought and sold goods which were traded in the busy harbour town.

## Wales is... 2% Neanderthal

Who lived in Wales 230,000 years ago? The teeth in this case belong to a Neanderthal boy. His remains were found in Pontnewydd Cave in north-east Wales, along with the remains of other Neanderthals. These are the only fossils of Neanderthal teeth found on mainland UK.

The size and shape of the teeth tell us a lot about the remains. The fact that one of the teeth was a milk tooth and the wearing of the teeth tell us that they belonged to a boy around 8½ years old.

Neanderthals visited Wales over a very long time period before dying out around 30,000 years ago. Modern humans first settled in Wales around 34,000 years ago. Today we share around 2% of our DNA with Neanderthals, suggesting some interbreeding may have occurred.

### Themes...

Human origins and evolution, Archaeology

### Discussion...

Do you think there was interbreeding between Neanderthals and modern humans?

Why do you think the Neanderthals died out?

Would you have anything in common with a Neanderthal?

### Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... not always welcoming; farmers

### Also visit...

#### **Celtic Warrior Grave Workshop (KS2 + KS3)**

This is a facilitator-led session where you can find out how archaeologists discover stories from the past by exploring the Celtic Warrior Grave. This session is an opportunity to identify how we can learn about the past through primary and secondary evidence, what archaeology is, how excavations are carried out, what is in the burial and also what may not have survived.

# Wales is... farmers

Wales's history in sheep farming dates back to Early Neolithic farming communities. The remains of one of Wales's first farmers can be seen in this section, alongside a reconstruction of a Neolithic human head. He lived around 5,700 years ago, when the wild woodland that once covered vast areas would have been cleared to create open land for rearing sheep. As well as changing the natural landscape of Wales by removing woodland, these communities also built large communal tombs, which can still be seen today.

The remains in this case were buried in a chambered tomb at Penywyrldod, near Talgarth in mid-Wales. He would have been buried here because he belonged to this place. His remains were mixed with bones of other community members, some of which show that life was not always peaceful. One of the people buried alongside our early farmer had an arrow tip lodged in their rib.

## Themes...

Death, Beliefs, Community, Agriculture, Archaeology

## Discussion...

Does Wales have a future in agriculture?

Is Early Neolithic farming recognizable by today's standards?

Would an Early Neolithic Farmer recognize their 'place' today?

Why do we call him a farmer? What else could he be?

Why do we think he belonged to this place?

Can we take archaeological stories as completely accurate representations of prehistoric life?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... not always welcoming; sacred places; 2% Neanderthal

## Also visit...

### **Celtic Warrior Grave (KS2 + KS3)**

This is a facilitator-led session where you can find out how archaeologists discover stories from the past by exploring the Celtic Warrior Grave. This session is an opportunity to identify how we can learn about the past through primary and secondary evidence, what archaeology is, how excavations are carried out, what is in the burial and also what may not have survived.

### **Bryn Eryr**

A small Iron Age farmstead, these roundhouses have been reconstructed based on archaeological findings at a site near Llansadwrn in the eastern corner of Anglesey. During the Bronze and Iron Ages roundhouses were the most common form of home in Britain.

# Wales is... musical

Wales is renowned as the Land of Song – is this a fair stereotype? Music means many things to different people, from the male voice choirs of industrial Wales to contemporary Welsh music of all genres.

The Welsh national anthem – *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* – was written in Pontypridd in 1856. James James composed the melody and his son Evan composed the lyrics. The song is strongly associated with Welsh sporting teams having been sung at the beginning of matches dating back to 1905 when Wales beat the All Blacks at rugby.

The first ever record in the Welsh language was Madge Breese singing the anthem in 1899.

## Themes...

Welsh Identity, Contemporary Wales, Welsh Symbols, Traditions and Stereotypes

## Discussion...

Why do you think Wales is known as the Land of Song?

Is it harder for Welsh language music acts to become commercially successful?

Why is the Welsh national anthem so important to Welsh people?

Do you listen to any Welsh artists?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... still speaking Welsh; costume

## Also visit...

### Withdrawing Room – St Fagans Castle

The withdrawing room in St Fagans Castle was a room used for relaxing. Music would have been played and listened to. See if you can spot the gramophone, which was once owned by world-famous opera singer Adelina Patti.

### Oakdale Workmen's Institute

Many collieries had brass bands and choirs. Visit the 'Stiwt (Oakdale Workmen's Institute) to see where one such brass band rehearsed and performed.

# Wales is... coal

Once the biggest employer in Wales, the coal industry employed over 250,000 people in over 600 mines. Miners in south Wales cut 57 million tons of coal in 1913, but after the First World War the industry declined considerably. This decline continued to the mid-1980s when only 31 pits remained in Wales.

The decline in pit numbers in the Welsh valleys and the actions of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government of the time resulted in the Miners' Strike of 1984-85. The strike started on 5 March 1984 and lasted almost a year exactly, coming to an end on 3 March 1985. Demonstrations on the picket lines sometimes ended in violent altercations with the Police and threats to those who were willing to cross the picket line and work on during the strike. In the case you can see a riot shield, which was issued to the Police to help control the demonstrations outside the collieries.

The strike divided opinion throughout the United Kingdom. There were people in support of and against the miners. While they were on strike miners were reliant on the goodwill of those who supported their cause. The Christmas mug in the case is an example of how the miners and their communities raised funds to help maintain as normal a life as possible. For some this was not enough and they decided they had to return to work before the end of the strike.

## Themes...

Industry and Trade, Protest, Independent Wales, Wales's power in Parliament, Ownership of resources, Welsh Identity

## Discussion...

Were the miners right to strike?

Should the pits have been closed?

Could the strike have been avoided?

Why do you think there was a decline in coal production after the First World War?

Is it right to use violent or unlawful means to protest?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... protesting; well connected; still speaking Welsh; drowned out; independent

## Also visit...

### **Oakdale Workmen's Institute**

Built in 1917 Oakdale Workmen's Institute served as a hub for social, educational and cultural life in the newly formed coal mining community of Oakdale. The building itself was funded by a loan from the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company. The loan was repaid by the miners working at the colliery in the years after its completion. With the

closure of the pit the Institute, or 'Stiwt' as it was affectionately known, also closed. It was moved to St Fagans and reopened in 1995.

### **Big Pit National Coal Museum**

Big Pit is a real coal mine and one of Britain's leading mining museums. With facilities to educate and entertain all ages, Big Pit is an exciting and informative day out. Enjoy a multi-media tour of a modern coal mine with a virtual miner in the Mining Galleries, exhibitions in the Pithead Baths and historic colliery buildings. There's also the underground tour. Go 300 feet underground with a real miner and see what life was like for the thousands of men who worked at the coal face. (Testun marchnata ni ar gyfer Big Pit ydi hwn, chi eisio rhywbeth gwahanol, e.e. dipyn o hanes y safle? Neu hwn yn ok?)

# Wales is... Welsh costume

The Welsh costume is not what it might appear. While it looks traditional, it was actually created to promote Wales in Victorian times. Based on the dress of women in rural Wales the Welsh costume is put together from traditional elements such as *brethyn* (traditional cloth). The Welsh costume is seen as a classic symbol of Wales and was used to market Wales to tourists traveling to the country on the railways.

The image of the Welsh Lady was popularised on postcards and was even a feature of china souvenirs. The use of the Welsh Lady and the Welsh costume was an attempt to portray Wales as a welcoming and wholesome place. Nowadays, the Welsh costume is worn to celebrate St David's Day on 1 March.

## Themes...

Welsh Symbols, Traditions and Stereotypes, Welsh identity

## Discussion...

What are the stereotypical symbols of Wales today?

Is wearing these to a rugby match a bad thing for Wales?

How real is this costume?

Is the Welsh dress still held in as high a regard today as it was in Victorian times?

Is the Welsh dress a true representation of Welsh identity?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... not always welcoming; farmers; wealthy; still speaking Welsh

## Also visit...

### Ysgol Maestir

Ysgol Maestir is an example of a rural schoolhouse, set out as it would've been in Victorian times. The school consists of one classroom with an assortment of desks for pupils from the ages of 5 through to 14.

### Esgair Moel Woollen Mill

The woollen mill at St Fagans is typical of many such buildings that were found throughout Wales from the 18<sup>th</sup> century through to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Farmers took their wool to a mill to be processed into cloth for their own use. The mill is still in operation today.

### The National Wool Museum

Located in the historic former Cambrian Mills, shirts and shawls, blankets and bedcovers, woollen stockings and socks were all made in the village of Dre-fach Felindre in the Teifi valley. Follow the process from Fleece to Fabric and visit the sympathetically restored listed mill buildings and historic machinery. (Testun marchnata – ok?)

# Wales is... drowned out

In 1965 Capel Celyn, in the Tryweryn Valley near Bala, was drowned to provide a new reservoir to supply drinking water to Liverpool. The name sign in the case would have been seen on the way in to Capel Celyn, before the reservoir was created. This sign, alongside the chapel china, was given to the Museum when people left the village.

People were forced to leave their homes, and a community was separated. In total, 800 acres of land including twelve farms, the village school, post office and chapel were destroyed to make way for the reservoir.

The motion for the reservoir was passed by the British Government of the day despite strong opposition in Wales. Most Welsh MPs opposed the Bill, while the people of Wales conducted protests against the destruction of Capel Celyn. Protests included demonstrations in Liverpool, and using explosives to damage the dam that would block the valley, when it was being built.

Tryweryn has become an iconic symbol in Wales and to some represents the lack of power in Wales.

## Themes...

Ownership of resources, Wales's power in Parliament, Protest

## Discussion...

Should Welsh water be used by English cities?

Is Wales profiting from its natural resources?

How would you feel if you had to leave your home?

Has Wales got a strong enough voice in parliament today?

Were lessons learnt from the drowning of Capel Celyn?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... protesting; independent; still speaking Welsh

## Also visit...

### Cilewent Farmhouse

Originally from the Claerwen Valley in Powys (Radnorshire), Cilewent Farmhouse is an example of a long house, traditionally seen in mid and south Wales. In such farmhouses livestock were kept at one end of the building, with humans at the other. The Claerwen and nearby Elan Valley have also been the subject of damming to create reservoirs for Birmingham.

### The Tollhouse

In response to extortionately high tolls on the turnpike roads, men in south-west Wales dressed up as women and attacked tollhouses. People lived in and made a living from working in the tollhouses. Was it right to destroy their homes? The tolls

were eventually made fairer for farmers and people for whom the roads were essential. Did the end justify the means?

# Wales is... Llywelyn and Glyndŵr

Llywelyn Fawr is to many the greatest of the Welsh princes. He was born about 1173. Through war and diplomacy, he dominated Wales from 1194 to 1240.

In 1283 all of Wales came under English rule after the conquest of Edward I. In 1301 Edward's son, Edward of Caernarvon, was declared the Prince of Wales. This started the tradition of the English monarch's male heir having the title of Prince of Wales.

Owain Glyndŵr was born about 1359 in a Wales ruled by the English. He led a national rebellion to regain Welsh independence. He was the last Welshman to be called the Prince of Wales.

The objects in these cases show weapons, money, religious items and royal seals. One of the highlights is the carved head of a royal figure that is believed to be the face of Llywelyn Fawr.

## Themes...

Independent Wales, Welsh Identity, Monarchy, War, Beliefs, Wealth and Poverty, Archaeology

## Discussion...

Would the day-to-day life of people in medieval Wales have been affected by who ruled over them?

Would people in medieval Wales have supported these wars?

Would people in medieval Wales have cared if the Prince of Wales was Welsh?

Should the Prince of Wales be Welsh?

Should the current royal family keep the position of Prince of Wales?

Should there be a royal family, and who should pay for it?

Should Wales be independent?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... independent; scarred by war

## Also visit...

### Llys Llywelyn

Llys Llywelyn is a recreation of a 13th-century royal court of the Princes of Gwynedd. It is based on the surviving remains of Llys Rhosyr in the south-western corner of Anglesey. The *llys* was the administrative centre of princely power in medieval Wales. Explore the hall of a Welsh prince and discover some of the members of court. What do you expect it to look like inside?

# Wales is... independent

The National Assembly for Wales was established after a referendum in 1997. The result of the referendum was incredibly close, with a majority of only 6,721 between the two sides. Just over 50% of the eligible electorate voted in the referendum.

The official YES campaign was supported by three political parties; Labour, the Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru. Grassroots campaigning was central to the YES cause with action groups set up all over Wales. This banner was created by Mary Lloyd Jones for the 'Artists say YES' group.

The Just Say NO campaign was set up by the Conservatives in Wales, who had no Welsh MPs following the 1997 General Election. Some Labour rebels also joined the Just Say NO campaign, which started later than the YES campaign. Some claimed the Just Say NO campaign was shambolic.

Since 1997 there have been further referendums where the vote has gone in favour of further devolution to Wales.

## Themes...

Independent Wales, Democracy and Equal Rights, Welsh identity

## Discussion...

How important is it to vote?

In 1979 Wales voted against devolution – what changed between 1979 and 1997?

Should there be a bigger majority for the result to count?

Should Wales be independent? How would you vote on this issue?

Should 16-year-olds be allowed to vote?

Are there similarities to the EU Referendum of 2016?

## Related exhibits in the gallery...

Wales is... drowned out; Llywelyn and Glyndŵr; still speaking Welsh

## Also visit...

### Llys Llywelyn

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