



22.04.2021

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Erthygl i'r Wasg Press Release

Crwydro Bae Colwyn – Las Vegas Cymru ar un adeg

Mae Bae Colwyn yn un o drysorau glan môr Cymru, ac yn un o ardaloedd mwyaf poblog y gogledd. Mae'n dref sydd wedi denu ymwelwyr o bell ac agos ar hyd y degawdau, yn dwristiaid ac yn drigolion y cymunedau cyfagos.

Cawn ddysgu mwy am yr ardal arbennig hon wrth i dîm rhaglen **Cynefin** – Heledd Cynwal, Dr Iestyn Jones a Siôn Tomos Owen grwydro'r fro yn y bennod nesaf ar nos Sul 2 Mai.

Defnyddiwyd yr enw Bae Colwyn am y tro cyntaf yn yr 1870au wrth i filoedd o bobl heidio i'r arfordir er mwyn cael gwyliau ar lan y môr.

"Mae Bae Colwyn yn parhau i ddenu ymwelwyr a does dim syndod, gan fod y dref Fictorianaidd wedi symud gyda'r oes, ac mae'r bobl yn dal i dyrru yma. Yn dwristiaid ac yn drigolion y cymunedau cyfagos, maen nhw i gyd yn chwilio am un peth – adloniant. Ac roedd adeiladau fel Theatr Colwyn yn arloesi yn y maes" meddai Heledd.

A Theatr Colwyn; theatr weithredol hynaf y Deyrnas Unedig a adeiladwyd yn 1888 fydd lleoliad cyntaf Heledd wrth iddi ddysgu mwy am rai o ganolfannau adloniannol y dref yng nghwmni Dilwyn Price.

"Den ni mewn ardal, oedd ar gychwyn yr ugeinfed ganrif yn fwrlwm o adloniant. Yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd, symudwyd yr Weinyddiaeth Fwyd yma i Fae Colwyn" meddai Dilwyn. Mi ddaru'r boblogaeth chwyddo; 5,000 o bobl yn symud yma. Ar ôl diwrnod o waith roedd y bobl eisiau rhywbeth i wneud gyda'r nos, dim cicio sodlau. Roedd 'na bump sinema yma ar un adeg".

"Dwi'n meddwl mai Bae Colwyn oedd Las Vegas Cymru!" ychwanega Dilwyn.

Un o ffeithiau mwyaf annisgwyl y dref yw mai ar Benrhyn Rhiwledyn yr argraffwyd y llyfr cyntaf erioed yn yr iaith Gymraeg, a Iestyn Jones sy'n ein tywys i ogof cyfrin lle'r oedd y gwaith hwnnw'n digwydd:

"Roedd Bae Colwyn yn y 1580au yn le eitha' cythryblus, yn enwedig os oeddech chi'n dilyn y ffydd Gatholig. Protestaniaeth oedd crefydd swyddogol y wlad, ond yn yr ardal yma roedd 'na griw o Gatholigion oedd yn amharod iawn i roi'r gorau i'w crefydd, sef y cefndryd Robert Pugh a Hugh Thomas, a'r offeiriad William Davies. Eu cynllun oedd rhoi gwybodaeth i'r Cymry Cymraeg am Babyddiaeth. Rhag ofn iddyn nhw gael eu dal, fe sefydlon nhw wasg gyfrinachol mewn ogof yn Rhiwledyn.

Mae Siôn Tomos Owen yn mynd ar drywydd hanes rhyfeddol Ffynnon Elian. Ffynnon iacháu oedd hi'n wreiddiol, ond, dros amser, cafodd ei defnyddio i felltithio pobl hefyd.



“Gallai rhywun ddymuno pob math o anlwc i’w gelyn, o achosi poenau, neu afiechyd arnyn nhw, neu ddymuno iddyn nhw golli eu heiddo” meddai Siôn.

“Yn ôl y sôn, roedd angen sgwennu enw’ch gelyn ar garreg fach, yfed dŵr y ffynnon, yna taflu carreg i fewn. Roedd gan y ffynnon geidwad, a nhw oedd yn gofalu am y melltithio, trwy ynganu’r geiriau priodol uwchben y dŵr, ac yna cymryd tâl. Roedd melltithio’n costio, a chodi melltith yn costio mwy – cynllun busnes da weden i!”

Ymysg y lleoliadau eraill fydd yn cael sylw yn y rhaglen bydd theatr bypedau arbennig yn Llandrillo yn Rhos Clwb Criced Bae Colwyn, Sw Mynydd Bae Colwyn a Chapel Sant Trillo.

Meddai Heledd: “Mae hanes a straeon y fro hwn wedi gwreiddio’n ddwfn. Ac er fod gan bob tre ei llanw a’i thrai, a bod oes aur Bae Colwyn yn cael ei gysylltu gyda’r gwyliau glan môr Fictorianaidd traddodiadol, mae’r dref yn sicr yn symud gyda’r oes. Wrth wibio heibio ar yr A55, does neb yn gweld y cyfoeth sydd gerllaw, ond mae Bae Colwyn yn brawf pendant bod hi werth troi oddi ar y ffordd fawr bob yn hyn a hyn.”

Cynefin: Bae Colwyn

Dydd Sul, 2 Mai 8.00

Ar alw: S4C Clic, iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill

Cynhyrchiad Rondo ar gyfer S4C



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Discovering Colwyn Bay – what was once Wales’s own Las Vegas

Colwyn Bay is one of Wales’s seaside treasures, and one of the most populated areas of north Wales. The town has attracted visitors from far and wide for decades, both tourists and residents of the surrounding communities.

We’ll get to learn more about this fascinating area as the **Cynefin** team – Heledd Cynwal, Dr Iestyn Jones and Siôn Tomos Owen explore the area in the next episode on Sunday 2 May.

The name Colwyn Bay was first used in the 1870s as thousands of people flocked to the coast for a seaside holiday.

“Colwyn Bay continues to attract visitors and it’s no surprise as the Victorian town has moved with the times, and people are still flocking here. As tourists, and residents of surrounding communities, they are all looking for one thing – entertainment. And buildings like Theatr Colwyn were pioneering the field,” says Heledd.

And Theatr Colwyn, the UK’s oldest operating theatre built in 1888 will be the first location for Heledd to visit, as she learns more about some of the town’s entertainment centres in the company of local Dilwyn Price.

“We are in an area which was, in the early 20th Century, a hive of entertainment. During the Second World War, the Ministry of Food was relocated here to Colwyn Bay,” says Dilwyn. “The population grew as 5,000 moved here. After a day’s work, the people wanted something to do in the evening. There were five cinemas here at one time. I think it was Wales’s answer to Las Vegas,” Dilwyn adds.

One of the town’s most unexpected facts is that the first book in the Welsh language was printed on the Rhiwledyn Peninsula, and Iestyn Jones takes us to a secret cave where that took place:

“Colwyn Bay in the 1580s was quite a troubled place, especially if you were following the Catholic faith. Protestantism was the official religion of the country, but in this area there was a group of Catholics who were very reluctant to give up their religion, namely cousins Robert Pugh and Hugh Thomas, and priest William Davies. Their plan was to give Welsh speakers information about Catholicism. In case they were caught, they set up a secret press in a cave in The Little Orme.



Siôn Tomos Owen pursues the fascinating history of St Elian's Well. It was originally a healing well, but over time, it was also used to curse people.

"People could wish bad luck on their enemy, inflict pain or ill health, or lose their possessions" says Siôn.

"Apparently, you had to write your enemy's name on a small stone, drink the spring water, then throw in a stone. The well had a keeper, and they took care of the curse by pronouncing the appropriate words above the water. There was a cost for cursing – and to reverse a curse cost more – a good business plan!"

Other locations featured in the programme include a very special puppet theatre in Rhos on Sea, Colwyn Bay Cricket Club, Colwyn Bay Mountain Zoo and St Trillio's Chapel.

Heledd says: "The history and tales of this area are deeply rooted. And while every town has its ups and downs, and the golden age of Colwyn Bay is associated with the traditional Victorian seaside holidays, the town is certainly moving with the times. When passing by on the A55, no-one can see the wealth nearby, but Colwyn Bay is clear proof that it is worth turning off the highway to explore further."

Cynefin: Bae Colwyn

Sunday, 2 May 8.00 pm

On demand: S4C Clic, iPlayer and other platforms

A Rondo Media production for S4C