
CYFEILLION MADOG

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Annwyl Cyfeillion-Dear Friends

Maegan Langer

My first Cwrs Cymraeg was The Wild Rose Course - *Cwrs y Rhosyn Gwyllt* - in Indianola, Iowa. I took several Welsh classes in college for fun and I wanted to continue learning. I'd heard about a group called Cymdeithas Madog and their traveling Welsh course from my professor. So one day, I found their website and signed up.

I wasn't sure what to expect when I arrived; certainly not to make so many wonderful, instant friends, or to spend every night singing my heart out in Welsh at the local pub, or to win a prize at the course eisteddfod! During the Sunday service at the end of the week, I found myself holding back tears. I didn't want it to end. I knew I had to come back again.

That was 2008. I've returned to Cwrs Cymraeg every July since, and it has become one of the highlights of my year. I always look forward to my annual intensive Welsh "fix" - to brushing up or expanding my skills (some years I'm better at practicing than others), to seeing old friends again, and making new ones. Cwrs Cymraeg is like the family reunion I actually *want* to go to.



Over the years, Cymdeithas Madog has granted me more than one generous scholarship to help pay the cost of tuition. It would have been very difficult, if not impossible, for me to attend otherwise. And my story isn't unique.

People come to Cwrs Cymraeg from all over the continent for many different reasons. Some are looking to connect with their Welsh ancestors, some for their love of languages, or to indulge their fascination for all things Celtic. But economic changes and the rising costs of travel and venues have made it harder in recent years.

Cymdeithas Madog maintains a scholarship program because we want Cwrs Cymraeg to be available to anyone who wants to learn Welsh. This wouldn't be possible without the support of our generous donors. So on behalf of the Board of Cymdeithas Madog, for those who come back year after year, and those discovering Cwrs Cymraeg for the first time, I'd like to say thank you to the Friends of Madog. Thank you for believing in us and helping us to keep *yr iaith y nefoedd* - the language of heaven - fierce and thriving on this side of the pond.

The Rocket City Course in Huntsville will be the *fortieth* annual Cwrs Cymraeg. What an extraordinary thing! Here's to forty more.●

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The Rocket City Course

Robert Davis

Perhaps you've heard the legend of Prince Madog, who crossed the Atlantic and landed in North America. There's a marker in Mobile, Alabama that indicates where he is thought to have come ashore. Well, this summer, Cwrs Cymraeg will be bringing Madog back to Alabama. This time we will be in Huntsville, Alabama, known as the Rocket City, for *Cwrs Dinas y Roced!*

Huntsville is known as the home to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, where the Saturn V moon rocket was created, and where NASA's new Space Launch System (SLS) is being developed. It is truly a city of rocket scientists and other pioneers, a fitting tribute to the great explorer Madog. But it is also much more.

Before we built rockets, Huntsville was a city of textile mills, which are now being repurposed. One of them, Lowe Mill, provides studio and exhibition space for over one hundred artists and other creatives, and is now the largest private arts center in the United States. Visitors can observe and interact with artists firsthand: painting, ceramics, photography, jewelry, stained glass, woodworking, musical instruments, and more have a home here. The creativity even extends to the edible, as Lowe Mill houses a pair of unique restaurants, a renowned chocolatier, artisanal tea, gourmet ice pops, and a distillery!

Huntsville is also known for its thriving craft breweries. Straight to Ale, Yellowhammer, Blue Pants, Rocket Republic, Salty Nut, Brew Stooges, Old Black Bear, Below the Radar: These names are all known and loved

by locals, and any visitor to Huntsville would do well to experience as many of them as possible. Fortunately it's easily done, since places like the Below the Radar brewpub, the Nook, and Old Town Beer Exchange offer wide assortments of brews both local and far-flung.

This is an area of outstanding natural beauty, as well. Downtown Huntsville sits at the foot of Monte Sano, a horseshoe-shaped limestone mountain in the foothills of the Appalachians. Huntsville enjoys a milder climate than much of Alabama, and Monte Sano State Park offers many miles of hiking and biking trails. What's more, the view below ground can be just as incredible as the view above, as north Alabama is known for its network of limestone caves. The most spectacular is Cathedral Caverns State Park, just 30 miles' drive from the city.

Huntsville takes pride in being a city of people who all seem to have arrived from somewhere else, and who have built our community together. From the time John Hunt settled at the Big Spring in 1805, to the growth of the textile mills, to the arrival of Wernher von Braun and the other German rocket scientists, right up to the present day influx of engineers and artists and creatives of all kinds, we've been a city focused on progress and building a better future.

Now it's your turn to follow in the footsteps of Madog on a bold mission of exploration. Come learn Welsh in the Rocket City! Southern hospitality, Northern and Southern dialects. We're so excited to welcome you here. Perhaps, like the rest of us, you won't want to leave. ●



Edrych Ymlaen-Looking Ahead

Meleri Davies

Shwmae! How are things?

Meleri Davies dw i.

Fi ydy Prif Diwtor Cwrs Dinas y Roced eleni ac rwyf yn edrych ymlaen yn fawr at eich gweld i gyd! 2016 fydd y trydydd tro imi hedfan dros y dwr i ddysgu ar y Cwrs Cymraeg. Y tro cyntaf oedd ar Gwrs Y Rhaeadrau yn St Catharines, Ontario yn 2014 ac wedyn yn 2015 yn Portland, Oregon ar Gwrs y Darganfod.

I am the Lead Tutor on the course this year and I'm very much looking forward to seeing you all! 2016 will be the third time for me to cross the pond to teach on Cwrs Cymraeg. The first time was in 2014 on *Cwrs y Rhaeadrau*, St Catharines, Ontario, and then in 2015 in Portland, Oregon, on *Cwrs y Darganfod*.

Gobeithio bod pawb yn iawn ac yn edrych ymlaen at Gwrs Dinas y Roced, ym Mhrifysgol Alabama, Huntsville, ym mis Gorffennaf.

I hope you're all well and looking forward to *Cwrs Dinas y Roced* at University of Alabama in Huntsville in July.

Ydych chi am ymuno â ni? Do you want to join us?

If so, you can expect a very warm welcome and lots of fun – croeso cynnes iawn a llawer o hwyl ☺

The main aim of the course is to learn to speak Welsh, and everyone is encouraged to use what Welsh they have throughout the week, inside and outside the classroom. We have about 5 hours of language classes each day.

REGISTER NOW!

Join Cymdeithas Madog for our 40th annual Cwrs Cymraeg Welsh language week at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, July 17-24, 2016.

Registration is open on our website, www.madog.org.

Adult Resident: \$1200.00 USD

Adult Commuter: \$1000.00 USD

Student Discount: -\$50.00

Tag-Along: \$800.00 USD

***All rooms are single occupancy.**

Financial Aid is Available!

The scholarship application deadline is April 1, 2016. Visit our website or email scholarships@madog.org for more information.

We cater for all levels, from absolute beginners upwards. So if you're thinking about learning Welsh – come along and try it out. Our experienced tutors will be there for you every step of the way. Their help, enthusiasm and encouragement will ensure that you learn as much Welsh as possible.

We also learn about Welsh culture, and the evenings offer such activities as folk dancing, *Noson Lawen*, *Eisteddfod*, a quiz, a Welsh film evening (with sub-titles) – an all-round Welsh experience and all in a week!

I do hope you will join us all in Huntsville in July – you're guaranteed a happy, fulfilling time with the added bonus of making many new friends.

Ewch amdani – go for it!

Hwyl am y tro, a gwela i chi ar Gwrs Dinas y Roced!

Bye for now, and I'll see you on *Cwrs Dinas y Roced!*●

Cwrs Cymraeg in Portland!

Daniel Ranbom

This past July, Cymdeithas Madog, the Welsh Studies Institute in North America, held its annual Welsh course in Portland, Oregon at the campus of Lewis and Clark College. The course was titled *Cwrs y Darganfod*, The Course of Discovery, a nod to Portland's pioneer past.

From Sunday to Sunday, the course was packed full of Welsh language and culture. Cymdeithas Madog welcomed Antone Minard, of Simon Fraser University, as a new addition to the teaching staff, as well as a number of new students, locals from the Portland Welsh community, and course veterans from all over the United States and Canada. This year saw an encouragingly large group of learners at the introductory level, enough to split into two sections, both of which learned an impressive amount of Welsh in only one week.

During the evenings, students and tutors gathered to learn traditional Welsh folk dancing, compete in a pub quiz balancing Wales and Portland trivia, and take in two episodes of the S4C documentary program "Dylan ar Daith" which followed the lives of David Thompson, an explorer of Welsh ancestry who navigated the

Columbia River in 1811, and Margaret Evans Roberts, a Welsh-speaking immigrant to America who campaigned for women's rights in the 19th century.

Apart from all the classroom time, course participants had the opportunity to explore the Columbia River gorge, from the waters of Multnomah Falls to the volcanic plug of Beacon Rock, guided by Dick Pugh, a Field Scientist for Portland State University, who provided a wealth of information on the history and geology of the area.

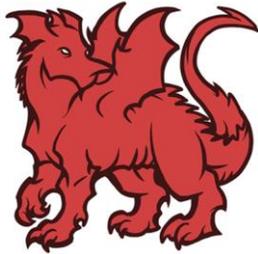
Students from all levels of the course somehow found the time to prepare submissions for the course's annual *Eisteddfod*, with the top levels competing for the honor of winning the chair – a miniature replica of the official chair for the 1989 Llanrwst National Eisteddfod. The judges ultimately deemed no entry worthy this year, a bitter disappointment for all involved. Yet perhaps the outcome will spur on those who will compete again next year.

Ultimately, those on the course returned to their respective homes, saturated with Welsh after a short yet intense week. Preparations are already underway for 2016's course, *Cwrs Dinas y Roced*, The Rocket City Course, which will be held July 17 – 24 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. ●
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Cwrs y Darganfod 2015, Photo by John Otley

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