

Y ROCED



Gorffennaf, 2016



Cwrs Cymraeg Dinas y Riced Huntsville, Alabama 2016

An Interview with Tutor Cris Dafis gan Sarah Stevenson

You've probably read the official biography of first-time Cwrs tutor Cris Dafis on the Cymdeithas Madog website, but your intrepid staff here at *Y Riced* wanted to bring you the real scoop on this year's Lefel 6 teacher. Originally from Llanelli, now living in Cardiff, his career for the past 10 years has focused on education, writing, and media—*yn Gymraeg, wrth gwrs*.

Over the low roar of the dining hall, I sat down to ask Cris a few questions about his work and his impressions of Cwrs Dinas y Riced. As it turns out, he worked for the BBC in Cardiff until about 12 years ago, as a producer and presenter of arts and culture programs. After leaving that job and entering the world of education, he's still continued to contribute to various programs, including a semi-regular slot on the afternoon show on S4C. He says he is also on call there as someone who can fill a few minutes with entertaining comments—a skill he has used to great effect in Lefel 6! In addition, he writes a weekly column for the Welsh magazine *Golwg*,



writing about everything from arts to culture to politics, and he writes poetry as well—he even competed in this year's Eisteddfod.

With credits like these, it's no surprise that he was a natural fit for Cwrs Cymraeg. When I asked Cris what he thought of the course so far, he was enthusiastic and complimentary—after pointing out that he was already, like most of us, *wedi blino'n lân!*

"I'm impressed with people's enthusiasm and strange desire to master this language, and quite heartened to see that there are people in different parts of the world who share our enthusiasm *dros yr iaith*," he said. "I'm impressed with the general overall organization, that everything has fitted so well into place. There's a heck of a lot of work gone into it, and there's only 7 days but it's taken a mammoth effort to bring it all together, so all due credit to Rob and his team."

This was Cris's first trip to the South, so I asked him what he thought about Alabama so far. He said, "My overriding impression is that I can't bear the heat!" That's a sentiment many of us from cooler or less humid climes can certainly relate to. But Cris was quick to point out how much he's enjoyed himself, too. "I'm impressed with how much open space there is, and how much space there is between houses and how much land there is. We had a nice day out in the Old Mill, and so enjoyed seeing local crafts and artists at work."

The famous Southern hospitality and charm have also contributed to Cris's enjoyment of the week.

"People seem very friendly and courteous—much more so than at home. Whether they mean it or not I don't know, but they appear much more polite. You're lucky to get a one-word answer in McDonalds in Cardiff."

All in all, Cris gives Cwrs Cymraeg in Alabama an overwhelmingly positive review. Except, maybe, for one thing.

"I find 'Oes Gafr Eto' particularly irritating, actually. Just irritating and annoying." Too bad! It's a song that is guaranteed to return year after year—and we hope Cris comes back, too.

Y Tywydd, gan Raizel Davis



Pwy oedd Madog?

Cafodd Madog ab Owain Gwynedd ei eni yn y 12fed ganrif yng Nghastell Dolwyddelan. Fe oedd mab Owain Gwynedd, Brenin Gwynedd.

Yn 1170 hwyliodd Madog a'i frawd, o Aber-Kerrick-Gwynan yng ngogledd Cymru a glanio yn Alabama.

'Dyn ni'n meddwl bod Madog a'i frawd wedi glanio ym Mae

Mobile cyn teithio ar hyd afon Alabama ble mae cestyll sy'n debyg i Castell Dolwyddelan.

Ganrifoedd ar ôl hynny, yn y 18fed ganrif, roedd llwyth y Mandan yn dweud bod cysylltiad â Madog a Chymru gyda nhw, a bod eu haith yn debyg i'r Gymraeg. Ond ar ddiwedd y 18fed ganrif treuliodd John



Evans Waunfawr amser gyda'r Mandan a methu â dod o hyd i unrhyw gysylltiad.

Mae cofeb ym Mae Mobile ers 1953 i gofio am Madog.

Geirfa:

Canrif – century
Cysylltiad - link
Hwylio – to sail
Methu – to fail
Glanio – to land
Cofeb – commemorative plaque
Ar hyd - along
Llwyth - tribe



Cwrs Cymraeg goes to Space

gan Tom Parsons

On Wednesday, members of Cwrs Cymraeg enjoyed a field trip to the U.S.

Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama.

The trip coincided with the 47th anniversary of the first moon landing by the Apollo 11 mission, crewed by Neil Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, and Michael Collins.

On display at the centre are more than 1500 artefacts from the U.S achievements in space exploration,

including several replicas of the Saturn V rocket used in the Apollo 11 mission, to space suits of different time periods and a moon rock.

Of particular interest to me was the display of food rations consumed aboard various flight missions. I don't envy the astronauts for that part of the mission.

The group also enjoyed an IMAX film on the state of the earth and its fragility.

Terfysgoedd Beca

gan Carl Finch

Roedd terfysgoedd Beca'n derfysgoedd gan ffermwyr a gweithwyr eraill yn erbyn tollbyrth a thollfeydd rhwng 1839 ac 1843. Ar yr adeg yma roedd llawer o ffyrdd a oedd yn eiddo preifat. Er mwyn talu am y ffyrdd roedd y perchnogion yn adeiladu tollbyrth a thollfeydd i atal teithwyr a chodi tâl arnyn nhw. Roedd llawer o'r teithwyr yn ffermwyr, oedd yn teithio'r ffyrdd i fynd i werthu eu cynnyrch. Roedd y tollbyrth yn ddrud iawn i'r ffermwyr oedd yn dioddef yn barod achos dirwasgiad.

Yng ngwanwyn 1839, cafodd tollbyrth newydd eu hadeiladu yn Efailwen, pentre ar y ffin rhwng Sir Gaerfyrddin a Sir Benfro. Roedd yn lle 'ma'n anghyfleus iawn i'r teithwyr, ffermwyr yn arbennig, a dyma ble dechreuodd llawer o'r dicter. Cafodd y tollborth ei ddinistrio o fewn pythefnos ac yna ei

ail-adeiladu, ond cafodd ei ddinistrio unwaith eto gan y terfysgwyr. Cafodd e ddim ei adeiladu eto ar ôl hyn. Gyda'r fuddugoliaeth yma roedd y terfysgwyr yn ddistaw am dros dair blynedd.

Cafodd tollborth newydd ei adeiladu yn 1842 yn Sanclêr yng Nghaerfyrddin. Fel y tollborth yn Efailwen, roedd y tollborth yn Sanclêr yn drafferthus iawn i'r ffermwyr teithiol. Cafodd tollborth Sanclêr ei ddinistrio ym mis Rhagfyr 1842, a dyna arwydd bod Tefysgoedd Beca wedi ail-ddechrau. Cafodd llawer o dollbyrth eu dinistrio o fis Rhagfyr 1842 a thrwy gydol dechrau 1843. Roedd 'Beca' wedi dychwelyd i ddial. Erbyn mis Medi 1843, oherwydd cafodd rhywun ei lladd, daeth y terfysgoedd i ben.

Er wnaeth y terfysgoedd ddim dychwelyd, maen nhw'n parhau i fod yn arwyr i lawer yng Nghymru heddiw



Y Roced welcomes our brand new agony aunt, Greta (ask Cris!) ...

Dear Greta,

I just can't say 'No'!

I change personality when I change language. In English I am able to say no without hesitation, in fact I'm renowned for it amongst my family and friends. But in Welsh, when I'm asked a question, I become a cowering, shivering wreck, and seem unable to refuse even the simplest request, and am worried what this may lead to. Please help.

Nona

Dear Nona,

First of all, don't panic. It's just as difficult to say yes. Think carefully before you respond, and listen carefully to the question as there may be a clue there. And don't forget that a nod or shake of the head can speak volumes.

Greta

Annwyl Greta,

Dw i'n meddwl 'mod i mewn cariad gyda fy nhiwtor. Mae e mor wybodus ac yn rhywiol pan yn treiglo, yn enwedig pan yn treiglo'n drwynol. Mae e wedi dysgu cymaint i fi ac yn gwneud i fi deimlo'n hyderus ac yn glyfar. Mae'n dweud 'da iawn' bob tro dw i'n agor fy ngheg a dw i'n cochi. Allwch chi helpu?

Dwynwen

Annwyl Dwynwen,

Gall cwympo mewn cariad bod yn brofiad poenus ar y gorau, yn enwedig pan fo'r person dych chi'n cwympo mewn cariad â nhw yn gwbl anadddas. Mae'r tiwtor mewn cariad gyda'r treigladau mwy na thebyg, y Gymraeg yw ei unig feistres. Dylech anghofio am y tiwtor a

chanolb

wyntio

ar eich

gwaith cartref.

Greta



Dear Greta,

Life is very difficult for me. I am woken up early every morning, then grabbed around the neck, made a show of and dragged from pillar to post. I must always face to the left. I'm dumped in the middle of a dinner table but offered no food, and am entirely left out of the conversation. I feel deflated.

Fflam

Annwyl Fflam,

Think back to the time you beat the White Dragon to win the pride of a nation and your place on its flag. Hold your head high, although always to the left, and channel your inner fire.

Greta

Reviews:

Arwr y Rhufeiniad gan

Steve Barlow a Steve Skidmore

Originally published in English as *Hero – Death or Glory*

Adapted by Catrin Hughes

Review by Raizel Davies

You're a British Warrior from a tribe fighting fiercely against the Roman Conquerors. When you're captured by the Romans do you have what it takes to compete as a gladiator?

Arwr y Rhufeiniad, like all books in the *Arwr Series*, is a choose your own adventure novel, set in Ancient Rome. It's quite exciting. It's up to you to make the choices that lead to glory.

This type of book is excellent for beginners. It's written in the present tense and is mostly in the second person. When you make deadly choices and have to start over, you end up repeating some of the same sections, which can help with learning.

If you're not interested in Ancient Rome, the series has many more settings on offer, from sailing with Sir Francis Drake to a rescue mission in space!

Clecs,

Reviewed by Carl Finch

Clecs (Welsh for gossip) is a Welsh language social media app similar to Twitter. You create a profile with a picture and bits of information about yourself, then you can post statuses and pictures,

and share the statuses and pictures of others.

You can also comment and 'like' or 'dislike' the statuses of the members you follow. It is Welsh only so is a great way to practice your Welsh and communicate with others in the language.

Welsh for Beginners

Reviewed by Carl Finch

Welsh for Beginners is, as it implies, a fantastic app for absolute beginners to the language. The app offers sections on describing yourself, asking about others, numbers, days, months, weather, colors, useful phrases, and asking for things such as food and directions.

However as an intermediate Welsh learner, the part I found most useful is on mutations. The app gives all the mutations and all the cases in which you would use them. This is very handy for all learners.

Duolingo

Reviewed by Maegan Langer

I admit I just started using Duolingo this week (which had nothing to do with my assignment to write a review) (okay, that's not true). But I like what I see so far. When you first sign up, it asks you to take an entry test so it can cater to your level of Welsh. You get to choose how much time you want to spend each day: usual (5 minutes), regular (10 minutes), serious (15 minutes), or INSANE (20 minutes). The lessons emphasize vocab, short sentence translation,

and listening comprehension. They get more complex as you progress – starting with the easy stuff, like greetings, days, etc. and moving all the way up to politics! The program's spoken pronunciation is sometimes difficult to understand, and I think Duolingo is better for review as opposed to learning new stuff. But it's a fun way to get your daily, bite-size Welsh "fix" in between Cysiau Cymraeg. Forget Pokémon Go – Duolingo is my addictive game of choice! Duolingo is available online at www.duolingo.com, as an Android and iOS app, and it's free! I used the Android app.

Some other apps you may find useful: Learn Cymraeg (gogledd) Mynediad a Sylfaen, Dysgu'r Wyddor, Llyfrau bach Magi Ann, Cymraeg for Kids, Ap Golwg, Ap Geiriaduron.



O'r Gofod i'r Gymraeg!

Gan Maegan Langer



"I'm what you call a 'polyglot wannabe,'" says Tom Guffin, first-time Cwrs Cymraeg attendee and retired NASA aerospace engineer. "My wife says 'language-nut.'"

Tom, a Huntsville resident, is currently studying about fifteen languages at various levels. Learning Gaelic first led him to pick up a book on Welsh. He soon discovered he needed help with pronunciation, so he started meeting with fellow Cwrs Cymraeg alum Robert Davis. For the past several months, he's been taking John Good's online Welsh course.

That kind of dedication served him well at NASA, where he worked on the

Hubble Space Telescope – his "baby" – for twenty years. Tom was part of operations, the team that decides where the Hubble should be pointed and when, and what instruments and filters are required. He also helped determine some of the telescope's hardware specifications, such as how long it had to stay on target to collect the needed data. After the telescope was launched into low-earth orbit in 1990, the crew on the ground couldn't get it to focus properly. Tom remembers the night they finally figured out the problem. At about three o'clock in the morning, the optics guy ran up and down the hall shouting, "The mirror is wrong! It's got to be the mirror!" The curvature of the edge of Hubble's main mirror was off by 1/50th the thickness of a piece of paper.

The giant mirror was created in a facility that also built top-secret military equipment. Many NASA personnel didn't have the proper clearance and so were unable to keep a close enough eye on its progress. The error was corrected by installing a series of smaller mirrors to change the way the main mirror reflected light.

Tom says the Hubble was

designed to be upgraded regularly as new technology became available. It is now in its third or fourth generation of equipment, but with the demise of NASA's shuttle program, direct maintenance is no longer possible. He estimates the telescope will last a few more years before eventually falling out of orbit.

He would have liked to see the full telescope in a museum someday, although that would be extremely expensive. He hopes that some pieces can still be salvaged and preserved.

In the meantime, he continues his hobby of collecting languages. Right now, he's focusing most on Russian, German, Spanish, French, Japanese, and Hebrew.

"After this intense [week], I guess I better add Welsh to it!"

Additional reference:

www.hubblesite.org



A piece of Welsh history on our doorstep



Llun gan Matthew Parry

"Captain Lewellen Jones, who served alongside Henry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee, during the Revolutionary War."

Did you manage to visit this gravestone, located directly behind the UA-Huntsville administration building, during y cwrs?

For more of Captain Lewellen Jones' history please visit:

http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/11/capt_llewellyn_jones_was_a_cav.html

PICE AR Y MAEN WELSH CAKES



Recipe from Jennie Jones
Great-grandmother of Janet Figini

Bake on an electric griddle set at 275-300 degrees

2C all-purpose or unbleached flour; 3/4C sugar; 2&1/2t baking powder; 1/2t salt; 1/4t nutmeg; 1/2C (1 cube) cold butter, cut into 1T size pieces; 2 eggs, beaten; 1/2C dry currants.

Sift flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and nutmeg. Cut in the butter with pastry cutter or 2 knives or a fork. This can be done with a food processor. You want the butter and flour mixture to be crumbly. Put into a bowl if using food processor to continue. Mix in currants. Add beaten eggs. Mix with a fork to form a soft dough that comes together. Remove from bowl and wrap with plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 1/2 hr. Divide dough in half. Roll out on floured board to 1/4th inch thick. Cut with a round 2" cutter. Place on preheated grill and bake until puffy and shiny on top, browned on the bottom. Turn and continue to bake until brown and cooked through. Turn only once when golden brown on the first side. Cook until golden on the second side. Place on cooling rack, sprinkle with sugar. (The temp. depends on your griddle. The cakes should bake fairly slowly and not get too brown too quickly or they will not be cooked through.)

Place on wire rack, sprinkle with sugar and let cool completely. These cakes keep well in sealed plastic bags or a tin with tight fitting lid.

Cwrs Madog 2017



We are delighted to announce that Cwrs Cymraeg 2017 will be held at Siena College, Albany, NY. Dates and further details will be announced on the website shortly, so keep your eyes peeled. We look forward to seeing you there!

Remember to visit our website and online store: www.madog.org
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