

# DIWRNOD OWAIN GLYNDŴR **MEDI 16 SEPTEMBER** OWAIN GLYNDŴR'S DAY!

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Mae Owain Glyndŵr yn bwysig i ni fel y Cymry gan mai ef oedd y Cymro olaf i ddal teitl "Tywysog Cymru", ac am ei fod wedi ysbrydoli ac arwain gwrthryfel hir yn erbyn teyrnasiad y Saeson dros Gymru. Arweiniodd gwrthryfel yn erbyn Brenin Lloegr, Harri'r IV yn y bymthegfed ganrif. Bu'r gwrthryfel yn llwyddiannus iawn ar y dechrau gan ennill rheolaeth ar ran helaeth o Gymru yn gyflym iawn. Roedd Owain Glyndŵr yn ffigwr amlwg i arwain ei wlad ac yn bwysig i'r Cymry gan fod ei rieni yn dod o deuluoluedd tywysogion Powys a Deheubarth a'i wraig Marged yn dod o deulu tywysogion Gwynedd. Cannodd Iolo Goch cerdd mawl i'w gartref Sycharth, ger Llansilin, Powys, gan ganmol yr adeiladau godidog, y croeso gwresog a haelioni Owain. Unodd Cymru gyfan gydag Owain Glyndŵr. Mae adroddiadau brenhinol o 1403 yn cofnodi bod myfyrwyr yn gadael eu hastudiaethau ym Mhrifysgol Rhydychen i ymuno â Gwrthryfel Glyndŵr, a bod crefftwyr a laburwyr yn troi eu cefnau ar eu cyflogwyr yn Lloegr i ddychwelyd i Gymru. Roedd Owain hefyd yn manteisio ar filwyr profiadol oedd wedi bod yn ymladd gyda Lloegr yn yr ymgyrchoedd yn Ffrainc. Gwelwyd cannoedd o saethwyr a milwyr arfog yn gadael rhengoedd Lloegr i ymuno â gwrthryfel Owain. Gelwir rhai ef "Y Mab Darogan", gan fod ganddo weledigaeth glir am ddyfodol Cymru. Ysgrifennodd y bardd Gruffydd Llwyd gerdd amdano fel y Mab Darogan - yr un a fyddai'n arwain y genedl yn erbyn y Saeson. Roedd ganddo

syniadau newydd a modern ar gyfer Cymru. Roedd yn awyddus i weld Prifysgolion yng Nghymru, ac ysgrifennodd lythyr enwog (Lythyr Pennal) at Siarl VI (Brenin Ffrainc) yn gofyn am gymorth y Pab Bened i sefydlu 2 brifysgol - un yn y Gogledd a'r llall yn y De, gan fod yn rhaid i fyfyrwyr o Gymry fynd i Loegr, Ffrainc neu'r Eidal i gael eu haddysg. Hefyd roedd yn awyddus i weld sefydlu Eglwys yng Nghymru, ar wahân i Eglwys Lloegr, gyda'r Offeiriad yn siarad Cymraeg fel y gallent gyfathrebu gyda'r bobl. Gweledigaeth fawr arall Glyndŵr oedd sefydlu Senedd i Gymru - a chafwyd cyfarfod cyntaf o Senedd Glyndŵr yn 1404 ym Machynlleth, gan benodi canghellor ac ysgrifennydd. Roedd gan Glyndŵr arfbais - pedwar llew tywysog Gwynedd, a Sêl Gyfrin, gyda llun ohono'n eistedd ar ei orsedd ar y blaen, a llun arall ohono yn marchogaeth mewn helmed ar y cefn. Yn anffodus, yn y pendraw, doedd dim digon o adnoddau milwrol gan y Cymry a gyrwyd Glyndŵr o'i gadarnleoedd gan y Saeson yn 1409. Er hyn, cafodd Glyndŵr erioed ei gipio na'i fradychu, ac mae chwedloniaeth Cymru yn darogan y tro nesaf y bydd Cymru dan warchae y bydd Glyndŵr yn ail-godi o'i orffwysfa gudd i arwain Cymru at ryddid. Ar ôl saith can mlynedd o reolaeth Saesneg yn dilyn cwmp Glyndŵr, gwiredddwyd breudddwyd Owain o weld rhyw fath o hunanlywodraeth yng Nghymru yn 1999 gyda sefydlu Senedd i Gymru ac agor Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

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Owain Glyndŵr is important to us as Welsh people as he was the last native Welshman to hold the title "Prince of Wales", as well as instigating and leading a long-running revolt against the English rule of Wales. He led the revolt against the English King Harry IV in the fifteenth century. The revolt was extremely successful initially and he quickly gained control of the majority of Wales. Owain Glyndŵr was an obvious figure to lead his country and was very important to the people of Wales as his parents were descended from the families of the princes of Powys and Deheubarth and his wife Marged's family were descendants of the family of the princes of Gwynedd. The bard Iolo Goch wrote an ode to Owain's home Sycharth, near Llansilin, Powys, praising the outstanding buildings, the warm welcome and Owain's generosity. The whole of Wales was united behind Owain Glyndŵr. Royal officials reports from 1403 account that Welsh students at Oxford University were leaving their studies to join the Welsh Revolt, and Welsh labourers and craftsmen were abandoning their employers in England and returning to Wales. Owain could also draw on Welsh troops seasoned by the English campaigns in France. Hundreds of Welsh archers and experienced men-at-arms left English service to join the rebellion. Some called him "Y Mab Darogan - The Foretold Son", and he had a clear vision for the future of Wales. The Bard Gruffydd Llwyd wrote a poem about him as the "Mab Darogan"

- the one that would lead his nation to victory against the English. He had new, modern ideas for Wales. He was keen to see Universities in Wales, and wrote a famous letter (Lythyr Pennal) to Charles VI of France asking for assistance from Pope Benedict to establish Welsh universities - one in the North and one in the South, because Welsh students had to travel to England, France or Italy to receive their education. Also he was keen to establish a Church of Wales, independent from the Church of England, with Welsh speaking priests so that they could communicate with the people. Glyndŵr's other big vision was to establish a Parliament for Wales - and the first meeting of Glyndŵr's parliament was held at Machynlleth in 1404, where he appointed a chancellor and a secretary. Glyndŵr has a coat of arms - the four lions of the prince of Gwynedd, and also a Privy Seal, with a picture of him sitting on his throne on the front, and on horseback and wearing a helmet on the back. Unfortunately in the end the Welsh did not have sufficient military resources and Glyndŵr was driven from his strongholds by the English in 1409. Despite this, Glyndŵr was never captured or betrayed, and Welsh legend has it that next time Wales is under threat he will rise again to lead the Welsh to freedom. After seven hundred years of English rule following Glyndŵr's fall, Owain's dream of a self governing Wales was partially realised with the establishment of a Parliament for Wales and the opening of the Welsh Assembly Government in 1999.

