

Welcome to the first **ForumWales** Newsletter – the newsletter of ‘*The Welsh Forum*’. The purpose of this newsletter is to bring all members up-to-date with what’s going on at **ForumWales** and also provide you with a small insight into what’s Welsh on the Web.

The Site

Since the launch of the site early in March 2005, the membership has been growing steadily. At the time of writing we have 72 registered members and many more people stopping by each day to take a look.

As time passes, the site is slowly evolving and your comments and suggestions are always welcome. A number of new areas have already been added as the result of member feedback.

One of the more noticeable changes is the recent facelift of the homepage. The new-look homepage now contains a little more information about the Forum status and also a new quick link to the registration page.



Continuing with the theme of evolution, a number of sections have been dropped from the Forum – the latest of these being the ‘Looking For...’ section. Removal of sections

helps keep down the clutter of lesser used parts of the site. The two topics from this latest removal were transferred to the ‘Questions’ section.

In the space left by the removal of the ‘Looking For...’ section, a new ‘Translation’ section has been added at the request of members.

If you need anything translated from Welsh to English or from English to Welsh, this is the place to post. Members will soon stop by and translate the posts for you.

To help identify the members who have the ability to help with the Welsh language, and who are willing to help, a new Usergroup has been set up. The ‘Welsh Speakers’ group allows you to easily identify these helpful members.

At The Forum

Now on to a look at some of the interesting things from within the Forum itself. Bits and pieces picked from what’s being discussed online.

July the 27th saw the arrival of our 1000th post. **Sioni** was the member who took the honour for that post but a big ‘thanks’ to all members for registering and posting!

Not sure what the next big milestone will be for the site – perhaps the 100th member?

We'll have to see what happens. Meanwhile, let's take a look at what else is going on.

The Membership Maps are found in the 'Member Introduction' section of the site.



These maps give you an idea where your fellow members come from. Only members who provide basic location details in their *Profile* are shown on the maps – update your profile if you want to be added. Provide as much detail as you like: country, county/state and/or town.

The next Map update is currently scheduled for the end of July.

Summer Holidays in the 'Just Chat' section is proving to be a popular topic. **Pete-Arr's** post asking "*Where are you guys going, if anywhere, this summer?*" has got us all in the mood to stop work and think about warmer and more relaxing places.

Looking for some social relaxation? Head down to the recently opened 'Pub' to join in the debate about crisp packet colours – surely Salt & Vinegar should be blue?!

Welsh On The Web

There's a lot of Welsh out there on the Internet, here are a few sites and stories to take a look at.

The BBC has some excellent content on its website but if it's Welsh you're after then go to www.BBC.co.uk/wales for all the information you need. From news and sport to help learning the language, this site is

packed with information and as it's the BBC, it's all free.

Celtic Wings is a website from **Arwen**, one of our new members. It's a personal area for her to share information about her history, her writing and her interest in all things Celtic.

She has a new interest in Wales and is already learning the language – it's coming along well judging by some of her posts in the Forum!



Arwen's Cymru page contains quite a few interesting links to information and websites she has found whilst researching Wales. Take a look at www.CelticWings.com.

Talk Tidy is the website of another of our members, **Welshdog**.

Welshdog's site is based around John Edwards and his books 'Talk Tidy' and 'More Talk Tidy'. This is what **Welshdog** says: "*John Edwards has made his lifetime study, the peculiarities of the Welsh/English dialect. He named this dialectical oddity "Wenglish" and recorded it as it is spoken, mainly in the valleys and townships of South Wales*"

It's an interesting site which brought a smile to my face as I read some of the definitions. This one I enjoyed:

Bomper

Big; "They've had twins - and one of them's a real bomper."

I've heard many of these words used before – now I know where to look when I get confused by the locals when I'm back in Wales.



Take a look at the site today and have a laugh: www.talktidy.com.

FamousWelsh is an interesting site devoted to indexing all the famous Welsh people from history and the current day.

Visit the site to find out what your fellow countrymen and women have gone on to do with their lives.

The 'Did you know' section of the site is an interesting place to visit. For example, "*the word 'glamour' originates from the ancient Welsh*".



Visit: www.FamousWelsh.com.

That's It For Now

The first **ForumWales** Newsletter has come to an end, hope you found it interesting. As always, comments and suggestions are welcome, as are suggestions for websites and other web-related information for inclusion in the next Newsletter.



In next month's edition: more Forum news, more Welsh on the Web reviews and other bits and pieces.

This month's closing picture from the **FW** Gallery is of Elan Valley Dam in Mid Wales. The photo was submitted to the Gallery by **FW** member, **eyeQ**.

Until next time!

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