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Dublin Core

Title

Remembering the 200th Anniversary of the French Invasion | Cofio 200 Pen Blwydd Glaniad y Ffrancod

Subject

Fishguard

Abergwaun

Battle of Fishguard

Glaniad y Ffrancod

Personal Reflections

Creator

Hedydd Hughes

Publisher

Ports, Past and Present Project

Date

2023

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Relation

<https://perma.cc/HL8J-QG2S>

Format

Curatescape story

Language

English

Welsh

Coverage

52.01340839913403, -5.033035024189237

Curatescape Story Item Type Metadata

Lede

In 1997, the town of Fishguard celebrated the 200th anniversary of the French invasion with a big celebration for all.

Lede (Welsh)

Yn 1997, bu Abergwaun yn dathlu 200 mlynedd ers Glaniad y Ffrancod gyda gwyl arbennig i bawb.

Story

Well, in the period leading up to the anniversary, our children were young. Carys was born in 1990 and Iwan in '93. So when the possibility arose to help out with the creation of the Tapestry, my hands were full and I was, unfortunately, not able to take part. However, it was great to have children of an age to enjoy the dressing up, the dancing and fun activities during the celebrations. They relished all the colour, noise and bustle during the parades.

As a family, we lived in Croesgoch at the time, and the children went to school in the village there. But we were about to move to Pencaer. We had bought old farm buildings at Tresinwen and my husband, who is a builder, intended to renovate them. They needed quite a bit of work, but it was an interesting project in a very special place. The French had been at Tresinwen in February 1797. We fell in love with the character of the place and felt strongly about preserving that character, taking care with the design and details of each building. This patch means a lot to people, and is close to their hearts. We didn't want to spoil that by changing too much, and erasing the history.

The pictures which were taken on Fishguard Square show Carys and Iwan with Anti Nansi. She's my dad's sister. She was born and bred in Lower Fishguard and grew up hearing the Jemima story every year. With her is Mrs Eirwen Howells from the Gwaun Valley. They were both part of 'Jemima's Army' during the celebrations.

In the picture where the children are dancing, two local ladies can be seen. One is Miss Yvonne Fox who made the role of Jemima her own during the celebrations. Mrs Margaret Davies (nee Williams), Pontiago is also seen. She taught at Ysgol Wdig in the 1950s and is the mother of Dr Mererid Hopwood, poet. Mrs Davies' family have lived at Pontiago, Pencaer, for many generations. The French probably met some of them! The dancing occurred at a 'twmpath' that was held in the farm-yard of Bristgarn Farm. This farm is always mentioned during a telling of the Invasion story, as it was here that a Frenchman was startled by the sound of the long case clock, and shot a hole through it. If I remember, it was the 'Jac y Do' folk group who were playing for the dance. The children enjoyed the experience. They felt themselves very lucky to be dancing with Jemima! Their cousin, Siôn happens to be dancing with Jemima in this picture. There was a lot of excitement and Iwan became tired

very quickly because he was only four years old. The photos are a great memory jogger of a happy time.

Story (Welsh)

Wel, yn y cyfnod yn arwain lan at y dathliade ‘dau gant’, we gyda fi blant ifanc. We Carys wedi’i geni yn 1990 ac Iwan yn ‘93. Felly, pan gododd y posibilrwydd o fedru helpu creu y Tapestri, we nwylo i yn fishi, ac we ddim posib cymryd ran, ac wen i’n drist obiti hynny. Ar y llaw arall, wedd hi’n bleser bod y ddou blentyn ar yr oed i joio gwisgo lan a dawnsio yn ystod y dathlu.

We ni, fel teulu, yn byw yng Nghroesgoch ar y pryd, a’r plant yn mynd i ysgol y pentre fanna. Ond, we ni ar fin symud i fyw i Bencâr. We ni wedi prynu hen adeiladau ffarm yn Nhresinwen ac we’r gŵr, sy’n adeiladwr, yn bwriadu troi’r adeiladau yn gatre i ni. We ishe tipyn o waith ar y lle ond wedd hi’n broject diddorol mewn lle arbennig iawn. We’r Ffrancod wedi bod yn Nhresinwen yn 1797. We ni wedi cwmpo am gymeriad a naws y lle, ac wen ni’n gwbod bod ishe gofal wrth weitho’r cynllun ac edrych ar fanylion yr adeilade. Mae’r ardal yn bwysig i lot o bobol, yn agos i’w calonne nhw. O newid gormod ar y lle, fydde’r hanes yn mynd ar goll.

Yn y lluniau sydd wedi eu tynnu ar Sgwâr Abergweun, mae Carys ac Iwan, gyda Anti Nansi. Hi yw chwaer fy nhad. Mae hi yn un o rocesi Abergweun, wedi ei magu lawr yn y Cwm, ac wedi clywed stori Jemeima pob blwyddyn ers ei geni. Gyda hi mae Mrs Eirwen Howells, Cwm Gwaun. We’r ddwy yn perthyn i ‘Fyddin Jemima’ yn ystod y dathliade.

Yn y llun lle mae’r plant yn dawnsio, mae dwy o rocesi’r ardal iw gweld. Un ydy Miss Yvonne Fox a fu’n Jemeima gwerth ei halen yn Abergweun yn ystod y dathlu ac am flynyddoedd wedyn. Y llall ydy Mrs Margaret Davies (Williams gynt). Bu’n athrawes yn Ysgol Wdig yn ystod yr 1950au, ac mae’n fam i’r Prifardd Mererid Hopwood. Mae y teulu Williams wedi byw ym Mhontiago, Pencaer ers cenedlaethe . Mae’n siwr i’r Ffrancod gwrdd â rhai ohonyn nhw! We’r dawnsio yn digwydd mewn twmpath a gynhaliwyd ar y ffald yn Fferm Bristgarn. Gwelir Bristgarn yn y Tapestri gan mai yma y saethodd un Ffrancwr at y cloc. Dwi’n meddwl mai grŵp gwerin Jac y Do we’n whare ar gyfer y dawnsio. Joiodd y plant mas draw, yn methu credu eu bod nhw yn câl dawnsio gyda Jemeima ei hun! Cefnder iddyn nhw, Siôn, sy’n digwydd bod yn bartner i Jemeima yn y llun. Wedd lot o gyffro yno ac fe flinodd Iwan yn gynnar gan mai dim ond peder wêd wedd e, ond joiodd pawb. Mae’r llunie yn dod nôl â chymaint o atgofion da.

Factoid

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