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Owain Glyndwr Day

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Should 16 September be declared a National Day in memory of Owain Glyndwr, the Welsh Prince who set up Wales' first Parliament in Machynlleth, Powys?



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On 16 September 1400, Owain Glyndwr was proclaimed Prince of Wales. It's a date which **Edward Evans** says should now be designated a national day to commemorate the man who first united the Welsh as a nation.

"I believe September 16th should be designated a national day for the great "Welsh wizard, damned Glendower"! Owain is a national hero for the Welsh and there is no denying he was a great man. Nominating a special day for him is nothing short of what he deserves."

• Do you agree or disagree? Whatever your thoughts, we want to hear from you. Join the debate and **have your say**.

Rhodri Hughes from Bangor sent us this message in may 2009:

Rhodri: "Glyndwr - a 'barbaric thug'? Both sides, English and Welsh, showed acts of cruelty and had done great damage, destroying towns, villages and farmland. In 1401, after three months of occupying Conwy castle, the Welsh were forced to surrender but eight of them were beheaded as part of the deal! If the story of what happened after the Battle of Bryn Glas in 1402 is true it was in revenge for an English attack the previous year which had been marked by many acts of brutality and rape. Some still think it was a story made up by the English to portray the Welsh as savages. In 1405, Dafydd Gam defeated Glyndwr's men at the Battle of Pwll Melyn. After the battle, 300 of Glyndwr's men were executed. The fact that Glyndwr's men hung the whole garrison of sixty protecting Radnor Castle in 1403 may seem harsh in today's terms but do you think the 'Bare foot Doggis' got it any easier if they were captured by the English?"

William David Johns from Caerphilly disagrees:

I've never heard such rubbish in my life. This Prince of Wales was a self seeking Englishman with friends in England. He envied the English and wanted to be just like them. He wanted to have his own England in Wales.

Clwyd Jones from Alton gives the idea the thumbs up:

Clwyd: "Great idea, would be a very proud day for all Welsh."

Michael from Mooloolaba in Queensland, Australia is keen to see 16 September as a national day to remember Glyndwr.



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Michael: "Definitely- just the beginning for retaining the heritage of a proud unconquered nation."

Steve from Swansea made this point in March 2007.

"Owain should not be remembered because he has never been forgotten. 16th sounds good to me. My mother was Scottish my dad Welsh. Guess I'm a rebel."

Dafydd ap Ioan defends Glyndwr from criticisms made by Gaynor and Ben:

"If Owain was a terrorist then so was Nelson Mandela, although come to think of it that's how most English people thought of him anyway, especially Margaret Thatcher. Owain Was 100% Welsh born of an ancient Welsh royal family. He had some education and work in England, that's it! and btw the welsh inhabited this land Before the Celts we are decended from the pict's the first civilisation of the british isles."

Gaynor from Llanelli believes Glyndwr was a 'barbaric thug':

"The historical Glyndwr was actually English not Welsh, as a historian who is 100% welsh and who also is proud to be not only Welsh but also born of a celtic nation and yes also proud to be British, I think it is always important to teach our children the complete historical facts that being that Glyndwr " the Welsh prince " was only distantly related to the Welsh princes was in fact English and was a babaric thug who raped and murdered innocent people including innocent Welsh people. Do we really need to fly a flag for this barbarian, yes we can remember him but as he was in history and not as some fairytale thought up by conformist nationalists. Who in their right mind would want their child brought up to look up to such a figure, its like telling children in Romania that Vlad the Impaler is father Christmas. If your proud of Wales, read the true history of your country."

Carwyn Roberts from Llanbedr says Glyndwr should not be forgotten:

"I think it is important to remember Owain. He forms a part of our past which we may never experience again. His belief in an independent Wales fired a nation to do something about it, we should definitely commemorate his life on September 16th. His life is too important to be forgotten, it was our moment in time when we stood up and said 'dim-mwy' 'no-more'. Also I'd like to add that Harlech was Glyndwr's stronghold during his life, and CADW do not fly his flag on the castle on his anniversary. I think this should be changed."

Matthew Pryce from Sydney, Australia emailed these comments in July 2006:

"I think this is a truly wonderful idea! None may deny that Glyndwr was not a great, charismatic leader for the Welsh people. Considering that it was he who first put the idea of their being a 'welsh people' united together as a nation. It is only right that he be celebrated for it with a national day on which to comemorate his glorious acheivements, to mourn the unfortunate end to which he came and to celebrate the Glory and Honour of the man himself and all that he stands for. Let his memory shine as a lantern that might guide and

inspire not just the Welsh but all who can appreciate what he did!"

Tylluan from Cwmbran advocates more than just a designated day:

"We should create a political party based up on the laws of Owain Glyndwr for a democratic vision, that he had for an independent Cymru!"

Carl from Cwmbran says he's a fan of the Glyndwr flag:

"As a Welsh nationalist, I will be flying the banner of Owain Glyndwr on 16th September. I couldn't give two hoots if i've got English neighbours who object to the idea... If it wasn't for this man, Wales wouldn't have its recognition as a nation today. He's done every Welshman proud and I think we owe it to him to celebrate 16th September as HIS day. Good lad Owain!!"

Gordon Edwards from Australia joined the debate in March 2006:

"I have friends who live in Wales who are very desirous of Welsh separation... I don't know if that would be possible but certainly the British Government should be big enough to proclaim a National Day for Wales. I have travelled through Wales on two occasions and it is such a lovely country and I do so much like the Welsh people and their traditions."

Huw Davies from Llanelli thinks Glyndwr's historical importance should be acknowledged:

"We should definitely have a Glyndwr day in memory of Owain Glyndwr in acknowledgment of an almost forgotten important part of Welsh history."

Jordan Curran from Talgarth is in favour of marking 16 September:

"I think we should definitely have a day to commemorate the great Glyndwr to get a feeling of welsh prde among us. Wales is a rising country and needs its own day."

Paul Richards from Newport says Glyndwr wanted the best for Wales and its people:

"Yes I completely agree that September 16 should be remembered for Glyndwr's vision for Wales. A vision to create a united wales with a university and direct links with Europe. He was futuristic in his vision. Revolting against the establishment could be argued about till we are all exhausted from hunger, the fact remains that he wanted the best for Wales and its people. Is there a price to be paid for freedom, as Robert Bruce said they can take our lands but they can't take our freedom. Glyndwr aimed high to achieve freedom, perhaps too high but he must be remembered for his ambitions dreams and visions for the Welsh. Our future generations should be able to speak about him with pride in their hearts. He should be revered for the hope and trust he put in the country and its people."

Daniel from Powys says Glyndwr is not a Saint:

"Owain Glyndwr was a Welsh hero, there is no doubt in that. However, if we dive into the depths of history he could be considered as a man who made the situation for Wales worse. Fighting for independence of his race was a great thing to do which required extreme bravery but if he had not have done what he did, would the relationship between England and Wales throughout history be less sour? Many others have carried out great acts of bravery which could (the same as Glyndwr) be considered as a nuisance which gained nothing. Owain Glyndwr is not a Saint, he is far from it. We can all say that he did great deeds and fought for what is right but does he really deserve a National Day? I don't think so."

Sally Anderson-Child from Manchester asks for guidance:

"I completely agree. I think it is absolutely right to celebrate and recognise Owain Glyndwr and his accomplishments. How do we go about getting a 'national day' 'official'?"

Declan Connolly from Narberth says the day should be marked in verse:

"Yes I agree with Edward Evans, we in Wales should celebrate National Poetry Day on Owain Glyndwr's birthday - 16th September. We have a great tradition of poetry in Wales and could easily beat England in making it a celebration of the vibrant poetry scene in Wales. The Dylan Thomas centre has really helped to bring the spoken word to the front of the performance scene in Swansea. We could use many sites relating to Owain Glyndwr especially Whitland/Hendy Gwyn which needs something special to raise it up, and has a memorial centre. Is anybody else up for a poetry day campaign?"

• **What do you think?**

Dafydd Ladd from Beulah takes a leaf out of the Bavarians' book:

"It would be nice to have the day as democracy day and to show that we were a bit ahead of our neighbours. I lived in Bavaria and they had 17 public holidays a year and guaranteed that at least 10 would fall on work days. That area is booming compared to other parts of Germany (not sure that is because of the hols). St. David's Day should definitely be a holiday!"

Rhys from Pontypridd:

"I am tired of talk, talk and more talk. That's all we Welsh ever do, but nothing is ever done because to be totally honest we don't have the guts that Owain Glyndwr had to change anything."

David Thomas from Llanwddyn thinks the argument about disruption to business doesn't hold water:

"Of course this should be a National Holiday as should St David's Day. Peter Hain's argument about disruption to business and longer holidays just doesn't hold water when you look at Scotland and N Ireland who have different and more holidays. The man totally lacks vision and seems content to keep Wales as much like England as possible."

Evan Ifor Powell from Hirwaun thinks we should celebrate Glyndwr and St David:

"We should have Glyndwr day and Dydd Gwyl Dewi as national holidays. These people represent our history and culture. They are Welsh National heroes who should be granted the status they deserve for services to our proud nation. Wales must make sure these individuals are celebrated and remembered!"

Simon from Pontypool says:

"16th of September should be a national holiday in Wales. His plight was symbolic of the Welsh defiance to the English oppressors which still exists today in some parts of Wales. He should also be remembered for his acts of heroism against such overwhelming odds. The English government will never allow this though, they want to keep the Welsh in their place. Second class citizens at the bottom of the barrel, especially when it comes to putting work into areas of the UK. They want all the money and power in London."

Alexander Dune from Barcelona says the past should not be forgotten:

"History is important and remembering culture. Respecting it is all too easy to forget in this day and age. Having a sense of identity, I totally agree with. The Welsh certainly do not have much else to celebrate as their own, so why not?"

David Hankey from Leicestershire is in favour of more Bank Holidays:

"I fully support this idea, in fact we over the border are desperately trying to get a St. George's Day Bank Holiday. I think the UK in general lags behind our European partners in terms of national holidays and it is high time the matter was rectified."

Chris from Treffynnon is in favour of an additional public holiday:

"Of course we should have September 16th as national Dydd Glyndwr. We have less public holidays than the rest of Europe (including Scotland) and Glyndwr is our national hero. However as the Assembly has no powers to declare a public holiday and Westminster only throws scraps at Wales to keep those nationalists and their cries for equality and fairness down, it will not happen."

Gethin Gruffydd emailed from Morryston in response to Nick Randalls Smith's posting:

"There is enough evidence to suggest that this last Great War of Independence 1400 - 1416 - 1422 served to liberate the peasantry as, for example, Lord Grey had 146 serfs at the start of the war and at its end he had eight. The war, I dare say, provided many of the peasantry with the opportunity to run away from bondage and yes, to join in on some pillaging. Evidence further suggests that, following the war, many of the peasantry occupied the isolated highlands and common lands with 'Tai un Nos' where they remained until a possible

"land war" dispossessed many of them in the 16th century. It is from this period that we have the cry of the peasantry of Caio, "Trech Gwlad Nag Arglwydd".

Further, there can be little doubt that many of the "liberated peasantry" of the Glyndwr period became the "Gwerin Owain" outlaws whose descendants the "Banditti Cambria" were also much hunted down in the 16th century. Other peasants would have become mercenaries and fought on both English and French sides at Agincourt in 1415. Also note, Glyndwr's army was often referred to as the "Barefoot Welsh Doggis" hardly a description of a "Welsh Knightly class". So yes! 16 September "Dydd Glyndwr" is OK! with me."

Vincent Bithell emailed from Spain:

"I couldn't agree more with most of the comments that the 16th September should be a day to be remembered by all Welsh people, of one of the greatest men of his times. In answer to Ben Slader from Bristol, I suggest you go and buy a dictionary and read what the word "terrorist" really means."

Janis Cortese from Los Angeles says was surprised to find there wasn't a Glyndwr Day:

"I'm a Welsh learner currently although I have no Welsh blood in me, and - although this may sound silly - I just assumed that there *was* a national day of recognition for Glyndwr.

I guess that puts me firmly in the "YES" column, doesn't it? :-)"

Lauren from North Carolina in the USA says more should be done to raise awareness of Wales in general:

"I think that even if the 16th September isn't made a national holiday, its history and importance should be more recognised. However, this goes beyond simply debate over a national holiday. Many people here in America have never heard of Wales! In many ways, we have been overshadowed by England. Even on maps, it says 'England', spread across Wales and England. Scotland and Ireland are recognised on maps, why aren't we? Our holidays do not appear on calendars, yet many do. The 1st March on calendars is blank. There is no mention of Wales. I think that there should be more recognition of Wales in general. It's time people learnt about our rich history and culture! "

Irene Price makes this point:

"I think - perhaps like a lot of Welsh people - that we should govern ourselves and have a Welshman as our prince of wales, chosen from someone whose Welsh heritage was close to that of Llywellyn or Owain Glyndwr."

Jerry Howell from the USA says you don't have to have an official day:

"Here in the U.S., we have St. Pats Day, Cinco Demayo, and Chinese New Year. Widely celebrated and none are official. We simply don't need permission to be proud of 'Our People'."

Gareth Westacott from Tredegar considers the importance of Welsh history:

"An earlier contributor, Chris Cowdery from Huntingdon, said that commemorating Glyndwr would 'fan the flames of nationalism'. He wants Welsh people to be kept in ignorance of their history...For sure, had Welsh people been taught their history in schools, made aware of their heroes and the ignominy of the English conquest and exploitation of our country, then I doubt if we would have put up with English rule for so long."

Y Bugail from Dinefwr thinks it would be fitting to honour Glyndwr:

"Agreed 100% we should definitely honour one of the great sons of Cymru, who fought so bravely to unite our people...I think it would be fitting to honour the only Prince any Cymro should recognise in these lands."

Christopher Williams from Newport says while he's in favour of marking September 16, we should also remember Wales' unsung heroes:

"What about all our other Welsh Heroes - many of whom little is said or recorded. I knew one. His name was Tommy Prosser from Aberdare. He was a mine rescue expert and he was one of the first men to get to Aberfan. I am sure that many people once knew a man or a woman like him. Let's celebrate them all and if they were Welsh that would be even better."

Justin Dyke from Cardiff says he agrees with comments made below by Julie from Pontypool:

"March 1st should be a national holiday and more should be made of Wales National day. Usually it passes with only a smattering of lip service. The Welsh should be proud of their national day and celebrate it to a far greater extent."

Julie from Pontypool joined the debate on St David's Day 2005:

"Sorry Peeps - I have nothing against Owain Glyndwr, but the very question is about a national holiday, which is singular and not plural. If it is a debate between March the 1st and September 16th, then I think we should honour Owain Glyndwr but we should go for St David's Day as a dedicated Welsh National Holiday even if it means that we relinquish one of the other bank holidays in its place, in order to celebrate the best in culture and diversity that Welsh nation as a whole stands for."

M Bowen from Galway in Ireland says actions speak louder than words:

"Just do it - stop talking about it! Get your banners ready for the 16th Sept 2005, get drama groups to perform re-enactments. Schools should spend the day focussing on the history of Owain Glyndwr, pictures in the papers, make it known."

Why do we need to seek approval to celebrate our true factual history and culture? May sound twee but from small

acorns grow great oaks. Why does it have to involve shutting shops up or be regarded as anti English? These are poor excuses. I remember when shops used to close half day on Wednesdays in Aber anyway. So don't spend another year thinking about it make it happen."

Darren from Machynlleth and Cardiff says :

"Yes, i would like another day off, esp seeing its my birthday!! but seriously we should remember Glyndwr, but i agree St Davids day should be made a holiday first. is the assembly gonna do something? hmm, didn't think so."

Read more in the [BBC Wales News archive](#)

Geraint from Cardiff says more should be made of Owain Glyndwr:

"I admit with some shame that I didn't know much about Owen Glyndwr till recently. I'm only 17 and haven't been taught about our main national hero at all during school.

His name is unheard of but it should be made heard. A day to remind us of the courage and strength of the Welsh people to hold out against the armies of england for ten years of furious fighting.

But his name shouldn't be an excuse for 'the sons of glyndwr' to terrorise english people in Wales. They can live here, it doesn't bother me. But one day I want to see Wales independent, if not from England, then from the failed political system we voted in."

Michael Jones from Aberystwyth says:

"We the "Plaid Cymru" (The Party of Wales) members of the Aberystwyth town council, voted that the flag of Owain Glyndwr be flown on all flagpoles on the 16th Sept. in Aberystwyth."

Alison from Builth Wells links 16 September with 1 March:
"Like St Davids day, this should be a national bank holiday. These days are important to us welsh."

Simon from Gwent says 16 September is an important date in his diary:

"September the 16th is a date that everyone in Wales should remember. On this day I always make an effort to send an email to my friends reminding them of this great man and what he did for our country. The people of Wales should honour his actions by making 16th September his day."

Nigel Davies from Coventry:

"Yes it should be made a public holiday. Every Welshperson should be proud of this man"

Ben Slader from Bristol: takes a different view:

"He was a terrorist"

Claire from the Vale of Glamorgan says we should follow France's example:

"Yes, let's have a day for him, doesn't have to be a holiday but just add his name to the day, the french do it for all their saints."

Alwyn Parry from New Zealand makes an alternative suggestion:

"When you read the correspondence it appears that many of the correspondents want to celebrate their identity and their culture with the World using Owain as their catalyst. Someone suggested a stamp - a great idea but what about a special stamp that we could attach to our emails on say March the First... just a thought. Cofion gorau o Gymro yn Seland Newydd" (*Best wishes from a Welshman in New Zealand*)"

Ellen from Orlando in Florida:

"Keep our Welsh heritage alive by remembering our Prince of Wales - Owain Glyndwr."

Emrys from Glynrhedynog in the Rhondda:

"Of course Sept 16 should be the National Day, but the English government will never allow it."

Mel Jones from Llanfachraeth says schoolchildren should be taught more about Welsh history:

"Owain Glyndwr was indeed a Marcher Lord who's land dispute escalated into a fight for justice over the whole of Wales. In terms of Welsh Historical Figures, he deserves the right to be recognised and September 16th would be the ideal date to celebrate his stance against English oppressors. I knew nothing about Owain Glyndwr until I went out and bought a book about him. Surely it's time that our children are taught about our own history, heritage and culture in Wales and less about the multicultural world we now live in."

Michael from Lewis:

"Owain our last price deserves to be remembered. We need an Owain Glyndwr day."

Leon from London

"Without Glyndwr's uprising and the sacrifice of the thousands who fought under the banner of an independent Wales, our country and language would have long since died.

The day should be recognised, though I think another public holiday is a bit unnecessary."

Matthew from Penarth:

"Yes Sept 16 should be a national holiday. Unfortunately most people in Wales are blind to their heritage and history so i won't hold my breath."

G Owen from Weston Super Mare says:

As a Welshman who shares his great name and who lives in exile, I say YES!"

Charles James Jagers from Glynneath:

"It is about time that Owain Glyndwr is recognised in Wales by having a public holiday honouring his memory."

Jonathan Kirk from Caergwrle says this isn't just a debate about 16 September:

"This is not just about having a holiday. It is about recognition. Recognition of a great Welsh figure - a visionary. For too long Owain Glyndwr has been castigated and deliberately "negativised" purely because he opposed the armies of England. If he had fought to save Wales from German oppressors then he would be a hero celebrated by the whole of these islands. Owain Glyndwr should not be used as a champion for those who simply hate English people but should be seen as a champion for Welsh political recognition - for self-government and self-education."

John Davies from Cardiff had this point to make :

"I agree totally! It's about time one of our national heroes joined others as a household name in Wales. His story needs to be told!"

Danny Jones from Cwmbran:

"Owain is a true great Welshman and the 16th of September should be declared a national day for Wales!"

Edward Allford from St Ives, Cornwall is all for designating September 16th a national day :

"I think that we should celebrate on the 16 September as Owain Glyndwr was the last True Prince Of Wales."

Sion Hopes from the Rhondda is a student at the University of Central Lancashire:

"It's about time that the rest of the world acknowledge us as a culture and a people. For too long have we been seen as "British" or even "English" by many. It is a sad fact that not only are the world not educated about Welsh history, but also our children. Let's raise our voice as our ancestors did and call for the Assembly to make Sept 16th a national holiday."

Matt from Aberystwyth had this to say:

"I've often thought that what we Welsh need is another day off. Let's have a Glyndwr day, a bank holiday on March 1st, and maybe a liberal sprinkling of, say 10 more across the year. Ok, the economy might collapse and bring the country to its knees but who cares! Those of us who are lucky enough not to work in essential services - or shops - will be too drunk sat in front of yet more Bank Holiday repeats on the telly to notice."

Noel Reeve from Rickmansworth is against the idea of creating another public holiday.

"The last thing we need, in Wales or England, is more public holidays. It is another burden on the taxpayer."

Karen Roberts from Hanford, California is all for declaring 16 September a national day:

"Absolutely! I'm Welsh/Celtic-American and it took me a long time to realize it, because the Welsh are not recognized by the rest of the world. Owain Glyndwr was a great Welsh patriot and should be acknowledged. The Welsh have too long been in the shadow of their English overlords. It's past time they made themselves - and their heroes - known."

Eleanor Glyn from Corwen had this point to make:

"Yes, I think we should celebrate Owain Glyndwr, and have a special day for him. Scotland and Ireland have their days, why can't we?"

Michael Jones from Penparcau says there's been a move to commemorate Owain Glyndwr in Aberystwyth recently:

"Why do we have to wait so long? Because the national parliament don't see Wales as important. Mind you after so many years dead, Bank Square, Aberystwyth is to be re-named Sgwar Owain Glyndwr."

Alec Hughes from Newport feels it is only right to have a day to remember Owain Glyndwr :

"Why not September 16th?, as Owain Glyndwr gave Wales its one and only parliament, we should have a day to celebrate the greatest son of Wales, and last true prince of Wales."

John Evans from New York agrees :

"16 September should be designated a National Day. This was and still is a very very special day for Wales."

Pamela John Crebey says Owain Glyndwr doesn't get the attention he deserves in our schools.

"Why is it that our Nat. Curr. for key stages 2, 3 and 4 do not contain anything about our greatest national hero? The more that can be done to encourage our youth to appreciate our national heritage the better we shall be as a nation. Since the exhibition at the National Library at Aberystwyth a few years ago, Owain seems to have gone out of the limelight. The 16th of September certainly should be a national day of celebration."

Irma emailed us from Florida with this response to Edward's call for a national day on September 16.

"Absolutely. Glyndwr was a very important force in the history of Wales. He should certainly have a national day."

Aaron Davies from Swansea says it's important that Owain Glyndwr is remembered :

"we should definitely have a national remembrance day for

owain glyndwr as he was a great man who should be remembered and celebrated in our nation."

Michael Glyn Jones from County Kildare in Ireland draws on that country's experience:

"In Ireland, the Easter Uprising is remembered each year; as a respect for those who set the foundations for the formation of the Republic. Glyndwr should be remembered in the same way; as a mark of respect."

Brian from Basingstoke has an alternative suggestion for commemorating Owain Glyndwr.

"While I fully support the campaign to have Owain Glyndwr remembered, a national day is not really a good idea. Many Welsh people live and work outside Wales, and many people working and living in Wales are not Welsh. To have a bank holiday-style day of office and shop closures would not only cost local businesses too much revenue, it could also cost workers a day of holiday if their employer failed to respect the holiday. Why not put him on a stamp?"

Gareth from Llandudno says:

"I think that we should have a Glyndwr day, but the question is, even if enough people wanted it would the English parliament let us have it?"

Ziggy from Machynlleth says:

"I DO think 16th September should be a national day. And I also think that more Welsh history should be taught in the schools - unless things have changed since i was last there!!!"

Rob Powell from New York has this to say:

"Owain Glyndwr was the last stand and last chance for a Welsh nation. Defeat was perhaps inevitable and we are now nothing but a sorry people with memories of what could be. Bring on a new prince to knit us a coat of songs. We will rise again and an OG day can be an inspiration to our youth who have little else."

Ron from Llanelli is short and to the point...

"I think it is a good idea"

Elin Thomas from London is just as concise:

"Of course it should."

Gillian Walker from Sarn Meillteyrn says:

"Yes, most definitely should 16 Sept. be designated a national day in Wales to commemorate Owain Glyndwr. A greater patriot we never had."

Gareth Thomas has joined the debate from Presov in the Slovak Republic.

"Without any shadow of doubt, Glyndwrs Day should be celebrated as a national day for Welshmen at home--and also for a few "exiles" like myself. He is still an inspiration to us all."

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Dafydd from Cardiff says:

"In my opinion, it is a disgrace that we as Welshmen do not celebrate the coronation of Owain Glyndwr. I most certainly think that we should have a National Day for Owain Glyndwr."

Paul from Aberystwyth urges people to get voting:

"To show how much we want a Glyndwr day, get on to the 100welshheroes.com site and make him our number 1 hero."

Des Barnett says it's important that Owain Glyndwr is remembered:

"It's important that Welsh history is kept alive. Much of Britain's history is from an English stance, and therefore if we do not keep our history alive it will be lost. A man such as Owain showed the importance of government, equality law, education and loyalty, much of this is never said when Owain is mentioned. He could have turned his back on Wales, but he believed in her and he paid a great price, his family and freedom".

Chris Cowdery from Huntingdon has serious concerns about commemorating Owain Glyndwr by declaring 16 September a National Day:

"Celebrating Owain Glyndwr would be an excellent idea. It would nicely fan the flames of Welsh nationalism, and legitimise the activities of Meibion Glyndwr. Splendid. Let's see what else we can think up to push Wales down the road to becoming like Northern Ireland. We should be promoting tolerance and our common values, not trying to cause division and hatred."

Anwen Rees from Caerphilly has emailed to say:

"I think 16th September should be known as Owain Glyndwr day as he stood up for what he believed in and that the way the English treated the Welsh was unfair".

Aled from Caernarfon agrees:

"I think that the country of Wales should have a day of remembrance for the true "prince of Wales". His work for the country has been under represented by the people of Wales for too long. September the 16. National OWAIN GLYNDWR day."

Craig from Swansea is another Owain Glyndwr fan.

"16th of September all the way!!!! Owain Glyndwr put his life and the nation of Wales for their beloved country, we Welshmen and women should do the same. It is now the 21st century and about time Wales was free like a bird!!! CYMRU AM BYTH!!!!"

Steve from Brecon says St David's Day needs sorting out first.

"Every year in September we hear calls in the media for a holiday for Glyndwr and then again in February/March for St David. Let's focus on one or the other and stop diluting the argument. For years I had to take time off work if I wanted to see my kids dress up on St. Davids Day - so that would get my vote!"

Sian from Cardiff says:

"I think that 16 September should be celebrated because he was so famous and it was so special that we should celebrate so we remember what he did..."

Dave Hayes from Saltney points a finger at the media:

"There is a Glyndwr parade held in Machynllyth every year. This year it is on September 20th. There is also a parade to commemorate Prince Llewellyn in Cilmeri every December. There was also a parade held in Hope / Caergwrle near Wrecsam this year (February) to celebrate the anniversary of the liberating of the area from the English by Glyndwr. The media refuses to acknowledge that these events take place! I wonder why? Is it because they don't want us to consider ourselves Welsh? The media prefers to let us think we are all British."

Jason from Newport says it's important to remember Glyndwr's legacy.

"I believe that not enough Welsh people know about Owain Glyndwr. His should be remembered for the reason that, even it was for only a short time, we were an independent country. It could never happen again because the English have taken all our natural resources so we could not maintain our own country without money from England but what Owain tried should never be forgotten!!!"

Celyn sent us an email supporting Edward Evans' call for a special day to commemorate Owain Glyndwr.

"Yes! Teach our children their Welsh history, not just history as seen by larger powers."

Michael Thompson was born in Wales but now lives in California. He's also in favour of celebrating the 16th September.

"I think this would be a marvelous way to reinforce Welsh cultural identity in an era of homogenised globalisation. Glyndwr was the last true Prince of Wales. I am an Englishman who grew up in North Wales and am deeply passionate about Wales."

Dr. J. R. Kerr-Ritchie has also joined the debate by email from the USA.

"I think 16 September should be designated a national holiday in Wales. The Welsh Assembly should legislate it next year - the 6th centenary of the first Welsh Parliament

convened at Machynlleth."

Jonathan from Cardiff is another who says that 16 September should be designated a National Day.

"Definitely, we have no hesitation in celebrating two birthdays for the Queen of England under a flag which only represents England, Scotland and N. Ireland. Why isn't it possible to celebrate a Welsh Prince who largely fought against oppression of the Welsh nation - no English monarch has offered this, yet we celebrate them! A little national identity will not start a civil war - have some pride!"

David Moore from Melbourne, Australia, agrees.

"Not only does it commemorate a great man with vision but it is a neat six months from Saint David's! Given that Australia is able to celebrate a horse-race, it seems the least we can do for a country that has been slow to celebrate its heroes."

Owain Chard from Munich is another supporter of the call for a special day to commemorate Owain Glyndwr.

"The 16th September should be celebrated along with the 1st March. Both should be national holidays in Wales. You can compare the 16th September in Wales to the 17th July in Germany, which is also a national holiday and remembers the uprising of workers in the East against their communist oppressors."

Siwsan from Milford Haven is very clear in her opinion:

"Yes, September 16 should be declared a Glyndwr day."

Nick Randallsmith from Montgomery isn't quite as convinced :

"If you read the detail about Owain Glyndwr and not the hype you will notice that for the average Welsh peasant his rebellion was a disaster. I suspect he fought not for some idealistic notion of Welsh nationalism but for his own feudal advantage. He was a marcher lord who happened play the race card in his struggles with the prevailing establishment. Forget Owain Glyndwr Day and lets have a St. Davids Day holiday which is celebrated throughout the UK, in fact lets have public holidays for all the UK's patron saints in all parts of the UK, then at least we might get something like the European average days off."

What do you think? Have **Your Say** by joining our online debate.

There's more about the man in our **[Owain Glyndwr Mini-Site](#)**.

your comments

Aldrich - Dyffryn Clwyd

December 22nd, 2008A long overdue tribute to a man of

vision. We now have Glyndwr University in Wrexham. A National day for him must not be far behind.
Tue Dec 23 14:28:13 2008

Matt Tennant, Wrexham

Yes it should be! A lot of us in Wrexham do call it Owain Glynwdr day and fly our flags for the day. Unfortunately, thanks to the roundheads across the border, I can't see Owain getting his own day when we don't even get a national holiday for our patron saint...
Wed Sep 17 09:51:34 2008

Mary Fleet .wrexham.N.Wales

wish there was someone like owain around today to keep the english where they belong ie. in england! they have no right to comment on anything to do with wales, but usually they cannot keep their noses out of anything.
Sun Jul 20 13:33:32 2008

Paul Glyndwr-Jones

Completely agree!! it's a scandal that Welsh culture has been ignored for so long.
Mon May 19 10:19:08 2008

Sion Conlin, Maesyrhandir

Let's make it a national holiday
Mon Apr 28 12:39:57 2008

cwmbran

it's an excellent idea! but it won't happen. the English government won't have it! our country needs to be recognized in the world! and Gaynor, how could you be proud to be British when we are not on the British flag and even our passports!!? ? sorry but it baffles me!! independent Wales!!
Sun Apr 20 19:36:22 2008

jon from blaenafon

I fly the Glyndwr standard on my car, and I live in Wales but you would not believe how many Welsh people do not know what flag it is and think it's Scottish and when they are told what flag it is the usual reply is Glyndwr who's that then. shame on them, that's not on, and they call themselves Welsh.
Thu Apr 10 09:05:38 2008

Trevor Sewry from Llangatwg, Powys.

Of course we should remember Owain Glyndwr. He did more to unite the Welsh people, and had the first Welsh Parliament in 1404, and has done more for the people of Wales than this so-called Welsh Assembly in Caerdydd has ever done or is likely to do. And, what is more is the fact that he united Wales instead of dividing it like the present assembly.
Mon Feb 25 08:07:49 2008

Aaron Davies

Bill Clinton's man of the Millennium - Glyndwr... enough said. Jim Dunckley reputed freedom fighter agrees totally.
Wed Nov 21 11:18:12 2007

Seamus ua Trodd, Baile Atha Cliath (Dublin)

I have long had a deep interest in the progress of our sister Celtic nation and am an admirer of Owain Glyndwr. Of course the Welsh people should have the say in this matter. And please, do not cringe from celebrating the day as a Welsh occasion, not just some foreign tolerated event. Most Welsh people I know are proud of their lovely land and its heritage, as may be seen from the many Welsh flags to be seen fluttering alone in the area around Mach. Finally, you do not

need to make this an anti-English event--to do so would only stress a streak of inferiority which should not be there. I cannot speak Welsh, but as we here might say, "go n-eiri libh!". That more or less translates as "more power to you!"
Mon Nov 19 08:26:26 2007

Geraint ap Brinley, Llanelli

The claim that Owain Glyndwr was English is absolutely ludicrous. Owain Glyndwr was the son of Gruffudd Fychan II of the House of Powys and Elen, daughter of Thomas ap Llywelyn of the House of Deheubarth. He could rightly claim to be Prince of Wales as he was descended from the Lord Rhys of Deheubarth and ultimately descended, through the Powys and Deheubarth lines, from Hywel Dda and Rhodri Mawr. Owain's father, Gruffudd was the son of Gruffydd ap Madog and Elizabeth Lestrangle, so there was some Norman blood in Owain's line, but hardly enough to call him English. Of course Owain was no saint, he was a man of his time, but rapist, murderer as some have suggested. Where is the historical evidence that he personally did this? No leader has been able to prevent his soldiers doing this, but this behaviour was no different to that visited on the Welsh by centuries of English/Norman invasions, yet the likes of Edward I are revered in English history. Barbarian? He established a Parliament and had ambitions for two universities in Wales. Glyndwr is a true Welsh hero and stands comparison with any from England or Scotland, but they honour their heroes far better than we do. Oh gyda llaw, Dydd Gwyl Owain Glyndwr hapus. (By the way happy Owain Glyndwr day).
Sun Sep 16 20:32:06 2007

Virginia Peiffer from Glen Burnie, MD

I have had the best of time seeking my forefathers and to have it end past the Romans. The one greatest of all is to find out Llewelyn was one. My father is always asking me for more on his family history, and we still finding more. Llewelyn and his father and grand father will always be apart of us. I do believe there should be a special day for these great men who ruled WALES as a great nation. They fought to the very end like many other warriors have in history, so why can't we honor them like all others? There really should be an honor for all good warriors who fought to make their country as good as all the rest. Thank you for this time.
Mon Aug 13 09:54:08 2007

Dean from Aberystwyth

Glyndwr should be remembered but not idolised. It seems that people who are totally in favour of Glyndwr day may need to do some research. His vision of an independent Wales was unrealistic, and he should not be credited with saving the Welsh language, culture or tradition. Ultimately Glyndwr failed in his aims, and that will be the final word. However his brief stint in power laid some foundations for a modern Wales.
Thu May 17 10:47:57 2007

Owen Jones, Llangollen

A grand idea, currently working on a photography project involving him, can't say I knew enough about him before so it's a good plan to give him a day of remembrance.
Thu May 3 10:44:02 2007

Mark B. Manchester

I see a lot of different facts and opinions here! History should be taught correctly so that you can appreciate the good that has been done. And also to learn from mistakes - so they are never repeated. I am English and I have no problems with the celebration of Owain Glyndwr, He may be long gone but so

are those English who oppressed Wales at that time. Please don't rub our noses in it now. We occupy the same rock in the sea so can we live in peace? Also, please don't hate me, you have never even met me!

Mon Apr 23 09:31:17 2007

steve swansea

Owain should not be remembered because he has never been forgotten 16th sounds good to me my mother was Scottish my dad Welsh.

Mon Mar 12 09:47:10 2007

Gareth

Gaynor from Llanelli believes Glyndwr was a 'barbaric thug': "The historical Glyndwr was actually English not Welsh, as a historian who is 100% welsh and who also is proud to be not only Welsh but also born of a celtic nation and yes also proud to be British, I think it is always important to teach our children the complete historical facts that being that Glyndwr " the Welsh prince " was only distantly related to the Welsh princes was in fact English and was a babaric thug who raped and murdered innocent people including innocent Welsh people. Do we really need to fly a flag for this barbarian, yes we can remember him but as he was in history and not as some fairytale thought up by conformist nationalists. Who in their right mind would want their child brought up to look up to such a figure, its like telling children in Romania that Vlad the Impaler is father Christmas. If your proud of Wales, read the true history of your country."

Mon Feb 26 16:11:38 2007

Gaynor, Llanelli

The historical Glyndwr was actually English not Welsh, as a historian who is 100% welsh and who also is proud to be not only Welsh but also born of a celtic nation and yes also proud to be British, I think it is always important to teach our children the complete historical facts that being that Glyndwr " the Welsh prince " was only distantly related to the Welsh princes was in fact English and was a babaric thug who raped and murdered innocent people including innocent Welsh people. Do we really need to fly a flag for this barbarian, yes we can remember him but as he was in history and not as some fairytale thought up by conformist nationalists. Who in their right mind would want their child brought up to look up to such a figure, its like telling children in Romania that Vlad the Impaler is father Christmas. If your proud of Wales, read the true history of your country.

Tue Dec 19 09:36:35 2006

Deiniol

Yes it should definately be owain glyndwr day, we need to remember the figures in our history who helped make us the country we are today. They're not gonna teach people in schools because we're not an independent country, so we have to shy away from our own history incase it has any political consequences. What a sad state of affairs, no doubt if Hitler had won the war we would shy away from remembering Winston Churchill!

Thu Dec 14 09:21:39 2006

Dan Hickey Abergavenny

September 16 and March first should definitely be bank holidays for the Welsh. The Welsh Assembly should stand up to the english government.

Tue Nov 28 14:31:23 2006

Jonathan Lloyd

There are too many bank holidays in the Spring. We should ditch Mayday and have Glyndwr day instead, the Scots should also have St Andrews day off instead of Mayday. Very appropriate since Socialism has done so much to damage both countries!

Thu Sep 14 11:14:36 2006

Lidia from Delavan, Wisconsin, USA

Should there be an Owain Glyndwr day? Why not? Look here in America, any national figure can have a national holiday designated for them--here there's Martin Luther King Jr day(Jan. 15th), Pulaski Day(March 1st), and the list would go on. I say give the true Prince of Wales his due--and if a petition ever came for me to sign to officiate Glyndwr day, give it to me now! I hope and pray that there will become a Glyndwr Day--I for one will celebrate it here across the Atlantic!

Thu Sep 7 16:41:09 2006

Kirstie Soper

Yes think it should be declared a National Day. He was the Prince of Wales! What he has done has made us who we are today and for that I am grateful, at the very least 16th September should be his day.

Mon Sep 4 14:16:09 2006

Jon, Blaenavon

I agree that Owain was a Welsh hero and deserves the respect and remembrance of the people of Wales. In school I was not given the opportunity to learn anything about Wales'past. They were too busy on 1066 and that rubbish. Every school in Wales should teach a unit/course on Welsh history/identity. God bless Glyndw^r and what he stood for. Never let his legend die.

Thu Aug 24 09:33:02 2006

Cawrbach from Sydney

Why don't the Welsh stand on their own feet and proclaim it? Is Wales a nation in its own right or a province of England?

Wed Aug 23 09:30:23 2006

Brian Horton, Dolgellau

He was only doing for Wales what any Englishman would have done for England. Although I am English, I agree that Owain Glyndwr should be recognised. He is part of a proud nation's history.

Mon Jun 12 09:28:45 2006

Aaron Davies, Swansea

Remembering heroes such as Glyndwr is the first step in finding a lost pride in our heritage and culture. If our children are proud of where they have come from and are taught about such people in schools then our language and culture will flourish once again. A national day for Owain is a great stepping stone in this direction.

Wed May 31 10:32:37 2006

Iltud Jones from Abercran

yes yes yes yes yes it should be a national day and maybe a holiday just for wales dere mlan cymru

Thu Mar 16 17:05:10 2006

Ian, Northampton

Owain Glyndwr was a great general and somebody who should be commemorated.

Fri Mar 3 12:38:09 2006

tomos cotgoledd from swansea

yes i agree we should have at least 2 national days and wales should run the country and not by england. lets tell the world about wales and the language we have. Cymru am byth!!
Tue Feb 28 19:54:23 2006

Gwawr from Bangor,Gwynedd

Some of us are already doing something about commemorating Owain Glyndwr in a really special way. In 2004, the 600th anniversary of Owain Glyndwr's Parliament in Machynlleth, we formed Senedd '04, a society, not aligned to any particular political party, to re-open the Parliament, as a sovereign body for the governance of Wales. Owain's Parliament was never closed, and the 600-year-long prorogation could be called the longest in history!
Tue Feb 21 15:05:04 2006

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