

## Key dates and events in Welsh history

### B.C.

250,000	In Pontnewydd Cave, Clwyd, - First human remains in Wales found near St. Asaph: evidence of a human tooth and bones
15,000	Paviland Cave Burial – First complete human skeleton
c. 6,000	Arrival of Neolithic farming communities in Wales
c. 3,000	Beginning of construction of megalithic cromlechs and stone circles
c. 2,000	Blue stones from the Preseli Hills transported to Stonehenge
900	Llyn Fawr hoard
c. 700	First Celtic culture in Britain

### A.D.

43	Roman invasion of Britain under Emperor Claudius
51	Defeat of Caractacus in Wales
61	Invasion of Anglesey by Suetonius Paulinus, followed by the revolt of the Iceni
72	Conquest of the Silures by Julius Frontinus
74-78	Frontinus, Governor of Britain and author of Aqueducts, founds the base for the II Augustan Legion at Caerleon.
78	Agricola kills druids of Anglesey to complete Roman conquest of Wales
80	Construction of amphitheatre at Roman legionary base at Caerleon
212	Roman citizenship for every freeman in Wales
c. 350	Forification of Caerwent
383	Magnus Maximus (Macsen Wledig) leads troops from Wales for invasion of Gaul
383	Roman garrison withdraws and Romans leave Wales
410	Fall of Rome
c. 410	Vortigern
429	Allelulia victory of Britons under St. Germanus
500-550	St. David and the Age of the Saints
516	Battle of Mount Badon halts westward expansion by Saxons
547	Death of Maelgwn Gwynedd
c. 589	St. David dies
577	Battle of Dyrham, near Bristol secures Anglo-Saxon control of southern

England driving back the Brythonic Celts to “Wales”.

602	St. Augustine meets leaders of the Celtic Church at Aust
616	Battle of Chester completes isolation of “Welsh” from rest of Britain
634	Death of Cadwallon in battle of Heavenfield
784	Offa’s Dyke constructed between England and Wales
844-878	Reign of Rhodri Mawr
856	Rhodri Fawr, King of Gwynedd, defeats the Vikings
900-950	Reign of Hywel Dda, the great Welsh law giver
1039	Gruffydd ap Llywelyn reunites Wales
1063	Gruffydd ap Llywelyn, last High King of Wales, killed
1066	Norman invasion and conquest of England
1067	William the Conqueror installs William Fitzosbern as Earl of Hereford; Norman incursions into Wales begin
1081	William goes on pilgrimage to St. David’s
1093	Death of Rees ap Tudor, King of Deheubarth, last ‘king in Wales’ (after it princes and lords only are mentioned)
1135	Death of Henry I of England
1165	Failure, in the Berwyn Mountains, of Henry II’s expedition against Osian Gwynedd
1170	Madoc discovers America (possibly)
1171	‘Strongbow’ sails to Ireland from Pembrokeshire
1171	The Lord Rhys holds the first Eisteddfod at Cardigan
1188	Giraldus Cambrensis accompanies Archbishop Baldwin on tour of Wales to recruit for the Crusades
1196-1240	Reign of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (the Great)
1200	Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (Llywelyn the Great) becomes master of the whole of Gwynedd
1204	Llywelyn pledged to the daughter of King John
1215	Llywelyn’s rights recognised in Magna Carta
1240	Death of Llywelyn the Great
1244	Gruffydd ap Llywelyn killed trying to escape from the Tower of London
1246-1282	Reign of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd (the Last)
1247	Unequal Treaty of Woodstock
1255	Llywelyn ap Gruffydd seizes power in Gwynedd
1267	Treaty of Montgomery. Llywelyn acknowledged as Prince of Wales
1276-77	First Welsh War of Independence
1267	Treaty of Montgomery establishes Llywelyn’s rights
1277	First Welsh war of Edward I
1277	Treaty of Aberconwy limits Llywelyn’s territory
1282	Second Welsh War of Edward I (and death of Llywelyn)
1282-83	Second Welsh War of Independence

1284	Statute of Rhuddlan declares all Welshmen to be subjects of the English crown
1294	Revolt of Madog ap Llywelyn
1301	First English prince of Wales proclaimed
1346	Welsh bowmen serve at Crecy
1349	Black death reaches Wales
1399	Richard II arrested by Henry Bolingbroke at Flint Castle
1400	Revolt of Owain Glyn Dwr. Third Welsh war of independence lasts until 1412
1400-12	Third Welsh War of Independence waged by Owain Glyndŵr
1404	Glyn Dwr calls an all-Wales parliament to meet at Machynlleth
1408	English re-capture Harlech Castle. Decline in Glyn Dwr's fortunes
1412	Disappearance of Glyn Dwr
1415	Welsh archers fight with Henry V at Agincourt
1416	Death of Owain Glyndŵr
1455	First battle of St. Alban's. Beginning of the Wars of the Roses
1461	Edward, Earl of March (Edward IV) defeats Jasper Tudor at Mortimer's cross
1483	Council of Wales established
1485	Battle of Bosworth. Henry Tudor becomes King of England
1493	Council of Wales revived
1501	Death of Arthur, Prince of Wales, at Ludlow
1534	Henry VIII makes Bishop Rowland Lee president of the Council of Wales and the Marches
1536	Suppression of the lesser monasteries. First act of Union between England and Wales. English shire system extended to all Wales
1536-43	Acts of Union (more accurately 'Incorporation')
1542	Court of Great Sessions established
1543	Second act of Union between England and Wales
1546	First book printed in Welsh – 'Yn y llyvyr hwenn' (In this Book)
1547	Tenby-born Robert Recorde publishes <i>Grounde of Artes</i> , which introduces modern calculation using Hindu-Arabic numbers into British Isles
1555	Bishop Ferrar of St. David's burnt as a heretic in Carmarthen
1557	Robert Recorde, invents the mathematical Equals(=) sign
1558	Elizabeth I ascends to throne of England
1567	Translation of New Testament into Welsh
1571	Jesus College, Oxford founded by Elizabeth I for Welsh students
1583	First appearance of Madoc in history
1588	Bishop Morgan's Welsh translation of the Bible published
1593	The Puritan, John Penry, martyred
1601	Rebellion of the Earl of Essex. Execution of Sir Gelly Meyrick
1603	Accession of James I (the first use of the title, the Real of Britain)
1622	Sir Ebule Thelwall gets a new charter for Jesus College Oxford, which becomes the

most important college for Welsh students

1625	Charles I proclaimed in Wales
1642	Beginning of the Civil War. Charles I send his son, the Prince of Wales, for safety at Raglan Castle
1643	Defeat of Lord Herbert of Raglan and his Welsh levies at Higham during the siege of Gloucester
1644	Battle of Montgomery in English Civil War
1645	Welsh levies suffer heavily at battle of Naseby. Victory of the Parliamentarian New Model Army
1648	Second Civil War. Defeat of Laugharne at St. Fagan's. Cromwell in south Wales
1648	Battle of St. Fagans in English Civil War
1649	Colonel John Jones and Thomas Wogan sign the death warrant of Charles I
1650	Act for Propagation of Gospel in Wales
1660	Restoration of Charles II widely welcomed in Wales
1683	Griffith Jones founder of circulating schools born (died 1761)
1688	The Toleration Act part of Glorious Revolution brings relief to Welsh dissenters under William II
1689	Council of Wales abolished
1707	Edward Llyud's <i>Archaeologica Britannica</i> published
1714	Howell Harris, Methodist revivalist, born (died 1773)
1717	First copper works established By Dr John Lane in Swansea which was to become the copper capitol of the world
1735	Conversion of Howell Harris at Talgarth. Beginning of the Methodist Revival in Wales
1743	Calvinistic Methodist Church established
1744	Penny pamphlet of hymns published by William Williams (Pantycelyn) (1716-91) Wales's foremost hymn-writer
1745	Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn and the Cycle of the White Rose fail to join the Jacobites under Prince Charles Edward
1751	Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion founded in London
1755	Thomas Charles, revivalist (died 1814)
1757	First lease of Dowlais works
1759	Dowlais works established at Merthyr
1776	Richard Price's <i>Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty</i> published in support of the American colonists
1776	American Declaration of Independence (18 of 54 signatories thought to be of Welsh origin)
1791	Construction started on Glamorganshire canal from Merthyr – Cardiff
1792	Iolo Morganwg holds the first Gorsedd on Primrose Hill in London
1797	French Landing at Fishguard repelled (last invasion on British soil)
1804	Trevithick's railway runs from Merthyr Tydfil to Abercynon, the world's first steam powered locomotive
1811	Thomas Charles leads the Welsh Methodists to their break with the Church of England

1815	Peace in Europe after Waterloo
1816	Merthyr Riots
1827	Lampeter college opened
1830	Court of Great Sessions abolished
1831	The Merthyr Rising. The Reform Act passed
1832	First great Reform Act extends qualifications for voting
1838	Founding of society that becomes the Royal Institution of South Wales
1839-43	Rebecca riots
1839	The Chartists march on Newport. The Rebecca riots begin in east Wales
1839	Cardiff docks constructed
1839	Swansea-born William R. Grove (1811-96) invents the fuel cell, a device that produced an electric current from hydrogen and oxygen reacting on platinum electrodes
1841	Taff Vale Railway opened
1843	The Rebellaites attack the workhouse at Carmarthen
1847	Report published criticising the state of education in Wales which becomes known as the 'treason of the blue books'
1848	British Association for the Advancement for Science holds first major scientific conference in Wales at Swansea
1849	North Wales Railway opened
1852	Great Western Railway opened
1856	Bessemer steelmaking process perfected
1856	<i>Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau</i> (Land of my Fathers) adopted as the Welsh national anthem by Evan James and his son James James both from Pontypridd
1856	John Dillwyn Llewelyn invents oxymel process allowing photography to become mobile
1858	National Eisteddfod revived by Iolo Morgannwg
1860	Rapid development of coalmining in the Rhondda
1862	Bangor Training College established
1869	William Siemens invents and establishes the open-hearth steel process at Landore
1865	Patagonia settlement, Y Wladfa, founded by Michael Jones of Bala
1867	Second Reform Act widens franchise
1868	The Liberals gain twenty-one Welsh seats in the General Election thus establishing Liberal political supremacy in Wales
1872	Ballot Act introduces the secret ballot
1872	Aberystwyth University College founded
1878	Foreign competition causes an agricultural depression in Wales
1880	Lord Aberdare Commission into education in Wales
1881	Sunday Closing Act passed
1883	Cardiff University College founded
1884	Bangor University College founded

1884	University of Wales founded
1885	First Tithe riots
1886	Foundation of Cymru Fydd – the Young Welsh nationalist movement
1889	Opening of Barry Dock, which soon becomes a major coal-exporting port
1889	Welsh Intermediate Education Act
1890	Election of David Lloyd George as MP for Caernarfon Boroughs
1890	McKinley Tariff in US impacts severely on employment in tinsplate industry
1893	Welsh Land Commission
1893	University of Wales founded
1893	Wales wins Triple Crown in the Home Nations rugby championship
1890	Lloyd George enters Parliament
1897	Marconi transmits first ever wireless communication across open sea, from Lavernock, outside Cardiff to Flatholm island
1898	South Wales Miners' Federation formed
1900	First Labour MP Kier Hardie elected for Merthyr Tydfil
1900	Wales wins Triple Crown in the Home Nations rugby championship
1900-03	Three year Penrhyn slate quarry strike
1901	Taff Vale Railway court case awards employers damages against the trade union
1902	Wales wins Triple Crown in the Home Nations rugby championship
1904-05	Welsh Religious Revival
1905	Wales rugby team defeats New Zealand 3-0
1905	Wales wins Triple Crown in the Home Nations rugby championship
1906	Trade Disputes Acts reverses Taff Vale case gives trade unions immunity from damages
1907	National Museum of Wales founded in Cardiff
1907	National Library of Wales in founded Aberystwyth
1907	Welsh Board of Education created
1908	Lloyd George becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer
1908	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Home Nations rugby championship
1909	National Pageant of Wales staged at Cardiff Castle
1909	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Home Nations rugby championship
1910-11	Riots in Tonypany arising from a dispute with the Cambrian Combine network of south Wales mining companies
1911	Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle
1911	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Home Nations rugby championship
1912	Publication of <i>The Miners' Next Step</i> , calls for workers control of the mines
1914	Birth of Dylan Thomas
1914-18	First World War
1916	Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister

1918	Reform Act abolishes property qualifications for men and brings in limited female suffrage
1919	Treaty of Versailles war reparations diverting German coal to France severely impacts Welsh coal exports
1919	Welsh Board of Health established
1920	Disestablishment of Church of England in Wales
1920	Swansea University College founded
1921	Copper smelting ceases in Swansea
1925	BBC Wales starts in Bangor
1925	Urdd Gobaith Cymru (Welsh League of Youth) founded
1925	Plaid Genedlaethol Cymru founded
1926	Welsh miners stay out after the collapse of the General Strike
1926	General Strike
1927	First hunger march goes from Wales
1927	Cardiff City wins FA Cup
1929	Aneurin Bevan enters Parliament as MP for Ebbw Vale
1930	Deepening depression in the south Wales coalfield
1936	Spanish Civil War
1936	RAF bombing school at Penryberth, Llyn set on fire by Saunders Lewis, Lewis Valentine and D.J. Williams
1939	Publication of <i>How Green Was My Valley</i> by Richard Llewellyn
1939-45	Second World War
1940	Llanwenog-born E. J. Williams, pioneer of particle physics, is the first to observe - at the Old College Abersytwyth - the decay of a particle now known as the muon. This provided experimental proof that fundamental particles can be transformed into other particles.
1942	Welsh Courts Act repeals language clause of 1536 Act of 'Union'
1944	First Welsh Day debate in House of Commons
1945	Education Act
1945	Lloyd George dies
1946	Coal Industry nationalised
1946	Welsh National Opera founded
1947	Steel Company of Wales formed out of Welsh steel interests of Richard Thomas & Baldwin, John Lysaghts, Guest Keen and Llanelli Associated Tinplate Company
1948	National Health Service founded under Health Minister, Aneurin Bevan
1948	Glamorgan Cricket Club wins County Championship
1949	Welsh Joint Education Committee established
1950	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Five Nations rugby championship
1951	Steel Company of Wales Abbey works opens in Port Talbot
1951	Welsh Affairs portfolio attached to Home Office and first minister for



Wales appointed

1952	George VI dies, Elizabeth II becomes Queen
1952	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Five Nations rugby championship
1953	Dylan Thomas dies in New York, aged 39
1955	Parliament for Wales campaign
1955	Cardiff declared capital of Wales
1956	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Five Nations rugby championship
1957	Welsh Affairs portfolio transferred from Home Office to Housing and Local Government
1958	Stantec Zebra is the first commercial computer to be built in Wales by Standard Telephones and Cables at Newport
1958	Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Cardiff
1958	TWW, the ITV company for south Wales and the West of England starts transmission
1959	Creation of Yr Academi Gymeig (the Welsh Academy), joined by an English language section in 1968
1960	Welsh Grand Committee created in House of Commons
1960	Aneurin Bevan dies
1961	Welsh Books Council established
1962	Formation of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg – The Welsh Language Society
1964	Welsh Development Agency
1964	James Griffiths becomes first Secretary of State for Wales with seat in Cabinet
1964	BBC Wales established following separation of television signals for Wales and the west of England
1966	Gwynfor Evans first Plaid Cymru MP, elected for Carmarthen
1966	Aberfan disaster – tip slide kills 144 people, including 116 children
1967	Welsh Language Act
1968	Harlech Television takes over ITV in Wales from TWW
1969	Wales wins Triple Crown in the Five Nations rugby championship
1969	Glamorgan Cricket Club wins County Championship
1969	Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle
1971	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Five Nations rugby championship
1973	United Kingdom joins European Economic Community
1974	Welsh Centre for International Affairs established
1974	Wales TUC founded
1974	Local government re-organisation reduces historic thirteen counties to eight, with second tier of 37 districts
1975	Welsh Development Agency created by Act of Parliament
1976	James Callaghan, MP for Cardiff South, becomes Prime Minister
1976	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Five Nations rugby championship



1979	1st March: First devolution referendum records 80 per cent No vote
1979	Wales wins Triple Crown in the Five Nations rugby championship
1979	Glamorgan Cricket Club wins County Championship
1979	3rd May: Margaret Thatcher becomes Prime Minister
1979	7th June: First direct elections to the European Parliament
1981	Greenham march from Cardiff
1982	S4C, the Welsh language television channel, starts transmissions
1983	Neil Kinnock elected leader of the Labour Party (until 1992)
1984-85	Miners Strike
1987	Institute of Welsh Affairs founded
1993	Welsh Language Act establishes statutory Welsh Language Board
1996	Local government reform replaces two-tier system in place since 1974 with 22 unitary authorities
1997	Second devolution referendum produces a slim Yes majority
1998	Government of Wales Act passed, establishing a National Assembly for Wales
1999	Welsh rugby team secures first ever victory over South Africa in opening match at new Millennium Stadium
1999	First National Assembly elections results in a minority Labour administration led by Alun Michael
1999	Rugby World Cup is held in Wales, Millennium Stadium opens
2000	Rhodri Morgan becomes First Minister replacing Alun Michael and negotiates a coalition with the Liberal Democrats
2003	Richard Commission report recommends more powers for the National Assembly, STV and 80 members
2003	Second Assembly elections produce a minority Labour administration
2004	Wales Millennium Centre opens in Cardiff Bay, home to seven resident companies, including Welsh National Opera and the Urdd
2005	Gwynfor Evans dies
2005	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Six Nations rugby championship
2006	Queen opens National Assembly Senedd building in Cardiff Bay
2006	Second Government of Wales Act paves the way for further powers to be acquired through a third referendum
2007	Plaid Cymru enters government as Labour's coalition partner following third National Assembly elections
2008	Wales wins Grand Slam in the Six Nations rugby championship
2009	Rhodri Morgan retires as First Minister, succeeded by Carwyn Jones
2010	National Assembly approves holding a referendum on increased legislative powers for Wales