



Caernarfon

Caernarfon Rufeinig: y cysylltiad Iddewig cynharaf yng Nghymru/Roman Caernarfon: the earliest Jewish link in Wales

Yn 1828, darganfuwyd amulet Groeghebraeg yng nghaer Rufeinig Segontium, a adeiladwyd yn 77 OC, sy'n nodi'r cyswllt cynharaf y gwyddys amdano rhwng diwylliant Iddewig a Chymru. Er nad yw'n profi presenoldeb Iddewig yng Nghaernarfon, mae'n dangos gwrthrychau Iddewig wedi cyrraedd yr ardal bron i ddwy fil o flynyddoedd yn ôl.

In 1828, a Graeco-Hebrew amulet was found at the Roman fort of Segontium, built in 77CE, marking the earliest known contact between Jewish culture and Wales. Though it doesn't prove a Jewish presence in Caernarfon, it shows Jewish objects reached the area nearly two millennia ago.



Amulet aur Groeghebraeg o Segontium.
Delwedd trwy garedigrwydd Gwasanaeth Archifau Gwynedd.
Graeco-Hebrew gold amulet from Segontium.
Image courtesy of Gwynedd Archive Service.

Caernarfon Ganoloesol/Medieval Caernarfon

Yn ystod ei goncwest o Gymru, gosododd Edward I drethi trwm ar gymunedau Iddewig i gefnogi ei ymgyrchoedd ac adeiladu Castell Caernarfon. Ar ôl trechu Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, fe ddiarddelodd yr Iddewon yn 1290, gan alluogi'r goron i atafaelu dyledion a oedd yn ddyledus i fenthycwyr Iddewig.

Digwyddodd gwaharddiad Iddewon o Gaernarfon hyd yn oed yn gynharach, gyda siarter tref 1284 yn nodi “Ni chaiff Iddewon fyw yn y Fwrdeistref honno ar unrhyw adeg”. Ni chodir yr gwaharddiad hwn yn swyddogol erioed.

During his conquest of Wales, Edward I imposed heavy taxes on Jewish communities to support his campaigns and the building of Caernarfon Castle. After defeating Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, he expelled the Jews in 1290, enabling the crown to seize debts owed to Jewish lenders.

The exclusion of Jews from Caernarfon took place even earlier, with the town charter of 1284 stating, “Jews shall not at any time dwell in the said Borough”. This exclusion has never officially been lifted.



Castell Caernarfon, 1959. Ffotograffydd: Geoff Charles.
Caernarfon Castle, 1959. Photographer: Geoff Charles.

Priodas Iddewig Gyntaf yng Nghaernarfon/First Jewish Wedding in Caernarfon

Nid yw pob cyhoeddiad priodas yn dechrau gyda chyfeiriad at alltudio Iddewon o Brydain, ond ychwanegodd hyn blas lleol at y briodas Iddewig gyntaf a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaernarfon, yn 1912.

Rhoddodd **Morris Wartski**, sylfaenydd y synagogau ym Mangor a Llandudno, y tost. Cyfeiriodd at siarter y drydedd ganrif ar ddeg a oedd yn gwahardd Iddewon o'r dref, a nododd fod presenoldeb cymaint o gymdogion Cristnogol yn dangos faint yr oedd agweddau wedi newid. Nid oedd gelyniaeth bellach, ac nad oedd “pobl Iddewig mor rhyfedd ag yr oedd llawer o bobl yn ymddangos i feddwl”.

Not every wedding announcement begins with a reference to the expulsion of Jews from Britain, but it added local flavour to the first Jewish wedding to take place in Caernarfon, in 1912.

Morris Wartski, founder of the synagogues in Bangor and Llandudno, gave the toast. He referred to the thirteenth-century charter that barred Jews from the town, and noted that the presence of so many Christian neighbours showed how much attitudes had changed. There was no longer animosity, and that “Jewish people were not so peculiar as many people seemed to think.”



Caernarfon and Denbigh Herald, 05 Ionawr 1912, t. 8./05 January 1912, p. 8.



Mary Fine yn Syr Hugh Owen ym 1943.
Delwedd trwy garedigrwydd Robert Wyn/
Caernarfonmemorylane.co.uk

Mary Fine at Syr Hugh Owen in 1943.
Image courtesy of Robert Wyn/
Caernarfonmemorylane.co.uk

Mary Fine

Mary Fine (1906-1997) oedd plentyn ieuengaf mewn fudwyr o Rwsia. Tyfodd i fyny yn Llundain, gan gael ysgoloriaethau a graddio o Gaergrawnt mewn Clasuron ym 1929. Ni fyddai'r Gwasanaeth Sifil yn derbyn unrhyw un o dras dramor, felly dilynodd yrfa mewn addysgu. Cafodd anhawster sicrhau swydd addysgu nes iddi gael ei chyfweld gan Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen yng Nghaernarfon. Bu'n addysgu clasuron yno am 20 mlynedd a daeth yn uwch athrawes. Ni allai ddod yn brifathrawes oherwydd ei bod yn gwrthod derbyn gweddïau Cristnogol.

Mary Fine (1906-1997) was the youngest child of Russian immigrants. She grew up in London, obtaining scholarships and graduating from Cambridge in Classics in 1929. The Civil Service would not accept anyone with foreign parentage, so she pursued a career in teaching. She had difficulty securing a teaching post until she was interviewed by Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen in Caernarfon. She taught classics there for 20 years and became senior mistress. She was unable to become headmistress due to her refusal to take Christian prayers.

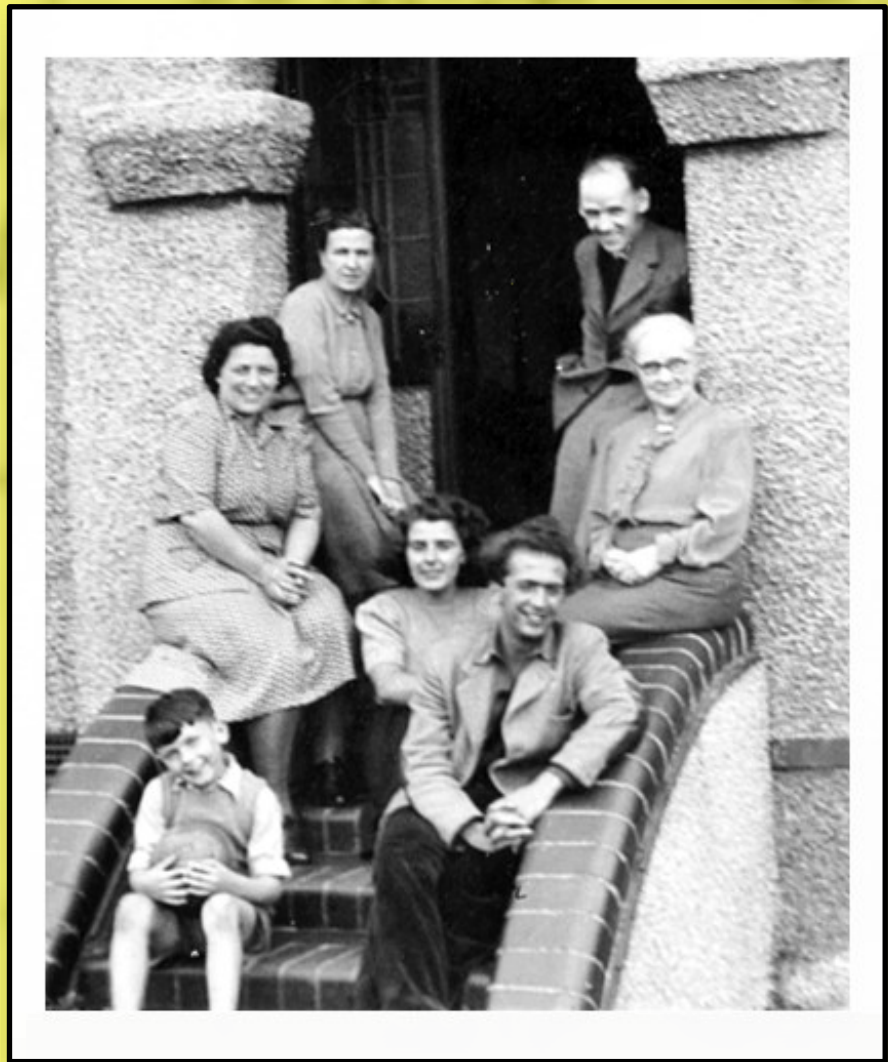
Y Teulu Borger/The Borger Family

Yn 1938, rhoddodd rhieni Robert Borger hysbyseb ddosbarthedig fach yn y *Manchester Guardian*, yn apelio am gartref diogel i anfon eu mab i ddianc rhag erledigaeth y Natsïaid. Esboniodd eu deisyfiad ei fod yn “fachgen deallus, 11 oed, Fiennaidd o deulu da”.

Darparodd Nans a Reg Bingley o Gaernarfon gartref i Robert am gyfnod y rhyfel, a ffurfiodd y ddau gysylltiad gydol oes. Goroedd rhieni Robert yr Holocost ac ymfudodd i Amwythig.

In 1938, Robert Borger's parents placed a small, classified advert in the *Manchester Guardian*, appealing for a safe home to send their son to escape from Nazi persecution. Their plea explained that he was “an intelligent boy, aged 11, Viennese of good family”.

Nans and Reg Bingley of Caernarfon provided Robert with a home for the duration of the war, and they formed a lifelong connection. Robert's parents survived the Holocaust and emigrated to Shrewsbury.



Lloches Gymreig: (clocwedd o'r chwith uchaf) Nans Bingley, Reg Bingley, mam Reg, Mary Bingley, Robert Borger, Jimmy Bingley ac Erna Borger, yn y llun yn Nhŷ'r Bingleys yng Nghaernarfon tua 1950.
Credyd delwedd: The Jewish Chronicle.

Welsh refuge: (clockwise from top left) Nans Bingley, Reg Bingley, Reg's mother Mary Bingley, Robert Borger, Jimmy Bingley and Erna Borger, pictured at the Bingley's House in Caernarfon in about 1950.
Image credit: The Jewish Chronicle.

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