

## **..NOT PENMAENMAWRS ?**

### **NO, LIMERICKS.**

**“*Limerick*”** is always alleged to have arisen in 19<sup>th</sup>. Century to refer to a refrain sung at a party between nonsense verses, each poem concluding with a communal refrain, “Will you come up to Limerick?” Each line of a limerick was individually contributed !!

There is, though, no more satisfactory explanation for its connection with the town [ Luimneach = bare area ] of Limerick than the history of The Irish Brigade in the service of France. As a frothy, oral concoction, arising out of French nursery origins, either intentionally ribald or perhaps even out of proper respect and reverence for the church, it always lacked a name, its own identity. The Irish Brigade in the service of France came into existence because of the Treaty of Limerick (1691), being organised in Limerick with County Limerick men. Its dragoons were raised by the Earl of Limerick and commanded by the M.P. for the County of Limerick in the 1689 Parliament. The name, not surprisingly, stuck and an identity was forged.

The poetic form can be found in English as far back as 1300, but the term, limerick, was not going to come into use until 1898. No British limerick was published earlier than 1821. Edward Lear ( 1812 - 1888) popularised the poetic form through his “Book of Nonsense” (1846), although he never used the word “limerick” himself.

W. E. Gladstone used to take his family for annual August holidays to Penmaenmawr. Compiling “penmaenmawrs” was part of their regular holiday fun, so by 1900 Gladstone had composed such as :-

**“There was an old woman of Ewloe.**

**Her habits were really too low.**

**She drank like a fish**

**And she ate off a dish,**

**This ill-mannered old woman of Ewloe.**

**[Sir FFlint] EWLOE ( O.E. ƿwell + O.E. hlāw > “ hill at source of a stream”) is close to Hawarden / Penarlâg [Sir Clwyd].**

**Many in Wales must have wondered about this new source of popular fun. Was there some reason why they were not allowed to try them out? Before long a 1908 letter of serious enquiry to “Y Cymro” from a correspondent giving his name as “Ap Siôn” brought a reply from O. M. Edwards to the effect that the form was too elementary for Welsh bardic taste. ( Nowadays that might sound a little haughty, but in fact no-one has ever suggested that the limerick has been poetry of the highest order.). By 1909 , however, its popular appeal was obvious from the moment that a full-scale competition was placed in “ Papur Pawb “ ! Other papers followed suit , and then local eisteddfodau spread the challenge, which flowered in particular after the 1914-1918 war.**



## **ENJOY THE FOLLOWING :-**

**1.**

**Mae** modd cael amrywiol limrige,  
rhai 'n bur fel y gwllith yn y bore,  
rhai eraill yn fyw  
anlladrwydd a rhyw,  
a 'sdim dwywaith mae 'r rheini yw 'r gore.

**N.B. modd (m.) =method, manner, means, way**

**cael = to get**

**amryw = several**

**pur = pure**

**gwllith (m.) = dew**

**rhai eraill = some others**

**anlladrwydd (m.) = wantonness**

**rhyw (m./f.) = sex**

**'sdim ( <<< nid oes dim )**

**dwywaith = twice [heb amheuaeth = without doubt]**

**i.e. ( there are no two ways about it )**

**rheini = these**

**gore ( <<< gorau ) = best [ limrige ( <<< limrigau )**

## 2.

**Mae cybydd** yn nhref Abertegan

ac enw ei ferch ydyw Megan.

Daw 'r bechgyn yn raddol

i hoffi ei gwaddol,

ond, pan welan' nhw Megan, mi regan' !

N.B. cybydd (m.) = miser

yn raddol = slowly, by degree (gradd (f.) = degree, grade)

gwaddol (m.) = dowry

gweled = to see [gwelant ( <<< welan' ) = they saw]

rhegi = to swear [regan' ( <<< regant ) = they swore]

3.

**RHyw fachan disymwth yw Dai.**

**Mi ddywedodd rhyw fore, "Good-bye!"**

**wrth ei wraig fach a 'i blant,**

**a mi baglodd hi bant.**

**Mae e' 'n byw erbyn hyn yn Sianghâi!**

**"Na, na, Mrs. Jones, 'r 'ych chi 'n rong.**

**Nid "Good-bye!" ddwedodd e, ond "So long!",**

**ac enw y lle,**

**('tai fater, yntē),**

**a dywedyd yn iawn, yw Hong Kong!**

**N.B. bachgen(m.) = boy**

**disymwth = abrupt**

**dywedyd /dweud = to say**

**bore (m.) = morning**

**gwraig (f.) = wife**

**plant (m.) = children**

**baglu /baglan i bant = to run away**

**yr ydych chi = you are**

**enw (m.) = name**

**petai yn fater = should it matter**

**yn iawn = accurately**

4.

**Mi ddywedodd** hen ffermwr yn Brittany,

“ ‘D oes dim byd yn tŷ nawr yn ffit ‘da ni.

‘D oes modd i gael menyn,

na chig, na ‘sgadenyn.

Mae ‘r llygod, welwch chi, bron â ‘n byta ni !”.

N.B. dywedyd / dweud = to say [ dywedodd = he said ]

‘d oes ( <<< nid oes ) = there is not

dim byd = nothing

gyda ni = with us (i.e. we have)

modd (m.) = way, method, means

cael = to have, get, obtain

menyn (m.) = butter

**cig (m.) = meat**

**ysgadenyn (m.) = herring**

**llygoden, llygod (f.) = mouse, mice**

**gweled = to see**

**bron â = almost**

**bwyta = to eat**

5.

**Roedd bachgen** yn RHosllanerchrugog

yn gwthio drwy 'r clawdd mewn lle brigog.

Gwnaeth ormod o frys

a gadawodd ei grys

yn rhecsyn ar ben weier bigog.

N.B. roedd ( <<< yr oedd ) = there was

gwthio = to push, thrust

clawdd (m.) = embankment

brigog = branching, twiggy

gwnaeth = he made

[ gwneud = to do, to make ]

gormod = too much

brys ( m. ) = haste

**gadael = to leave behind**

**[ gadawodd = he left ]**

**crys (m.) = shirt**

**recsyn (m.) = rag**

**pigog = prickly, spiky, barbed**

6.

**Ebr chwannen,** “ Mae eto yn nosi.

**Cryn dipyn o boen ‘r wy’ ‘n achosi.**

**Fy nghynged o hyd,**

**tra fyddwy’ ‘n y byd,**

**i peri dynoliaeth i gosi.”**

**N.B. ebr = quoth**

**chwannen (f.) / chwain = flea / fleas**

**nosi = (of night) to fall**

**tipyn (m.) = a little [ cryn dipyn = a considerable bit ]**

**poen (m./f.) = pain**

**achosi = to cause**

**tynged (f.) / tynghedau = destiny**

**dynoliaeth (f.) = mankind**

**cosi = to scratch, to itch**

7.

**Hen fachgen** yn byw yn LLangeler  
a glowyd o 'i anfodd mewn seler,  
ond, wedi iddo fwrw  
ar draws baril o gwrw,  
ebe fe, "Ei ewyllys a wneler."

**N. B.** bachgen (m.) = boy, fellow

cloi = to lock.

o 'i anfodd = unbeknowns to him

bwrw ar draws = to stumble upon

cwrw (m.) = beer

"Ei ewyllys a wneler". = "His will be done."

8.

**Hen fachgen** yn byw ym Mhen-dain  
yn cael ei boeni 'n ofnadwy gan chwain.

Mi a 'i clywes e 'n dweud,  
“Does dim byd i 'w wneud  
ond cosi o hyd fel y diain.”

**N.B.** yn ofnadwy = terribly

chwain (f.) = fleas

clywed = to hear

cosi = to scratch

diafol (m.)/ dieifl = devil

[ clywais = I heard ]

[ diain ]

9.

**Roedd** un o aelodau côr LLambed  
yn canu rhyw denor mawr tamed,  
ond fe 'i trowd e yn fas  
'r ôl cael annwyd go gas  
wrth gysgu un noson mewn camped.

N.B. roedd ( <<< yr oedd )

aelod (m.) / aelodau

tanbaid = fervent

[ tamed ]

troi = to turn

[ trowyd = he was changed ]

'r ôl cael = after catching

annwyd (m.) = cold

cas = nasty

cysgu = to sleep

10.

**Ro'dd cadno** yn ardal Y Bala

na 'allse 'r un Northyn mo 'i ddala,

ond, fe halw'd sha thre

r'w fachan o 'r De,

ac fe 'i dalws e, do, reit-i-wala.

**N.B.** ro'dd ( <<< roedd <<< yr oedd ) = there was

cadno (m.) / cadnawod = fox / foxes

ardal (f.) / ardaloedd = area /regions

gallu = to be able                      [ allse ( <<< gallasai ) = was able ]

dal /dala = to catch, to hold

galw = to call                                      [ galwyd = was summoned ]

tua thre (tuag adref) = home                      [ tref (f.) = town, home ]

Y De = The South

Dal /dala = to hold, catch                      [ dalws = daliasai = he caught ]

reit-i-wala = good and proper                      [ gwala (f.) = fullness ]

11.

**RH'w 'ffeir'ad yn Aberdaugleddau**

**a'th mâ's i bregethu i 'r beddau.**

**Meddai ef," Nid yw 'n syn**

**'mod i 'n gwneuthyr fel hyn.**

**Ma' nhw 'n llawer mwy effro na 'r seddau.**

**N.B. offeiriad (m.) = priest**

**myned allan = to go outside [aeth i faes = he went out]**

**pregethu = to preach**

**bedd (m.) /beddau = grave / graves**

**meddai = he said**

**syn = amazing**

**gwneud fel hyn = to act this way**

**llawer mwy effro = far wider awake**

**sedd (f.) / seddau = seat / pews**

12.

**Roedd hogyn o fro 'r Gellidara**

**a gerddai fel malwen o ara'.**

**"A dyna i chi pam,"**

**meddai ef wrth ei fam,**

**"ma' gwadna' fy 'sgidia' i 'n para.**

**N.B.**

**hogyn (m.) /hogiau = lad / lads**

**bro (f.) / broydd = region, area, vale**

**garddio / garddu = to garden**

**malwen (f.) / malwod = snail / snails**

**araf = slow**

**pam = why**

**mam (f.) / mamau = mother / mums**

**gwadn (m.) / gwadnau = sole / soles**

**esgid (f.) / esgidiau = boot / shoes**

**para / parhau = to last**

13.

**RHyw lodes fach bert o Flaengarw**

**a ffoes am ei bywyd rhag tarw;**

**Gan gyflymed ei throed**

**hi gyrhaeddodd Pencoed,**

**ond cwmpodd y tarw yn farw.**

**N.B. lodes (f.) / lodesi = lass / girls**

**pert = pretty**

**ffoi = to flee**

**tarw (m.) / teirw = bull /bulls**

**cyflym = swift**

**troed (m./f.) / traed = foot / feet**

**cyrhaedd / cyrhaeddyd = to arrive, to reach, to land**

**cwympto yn farw = to fall down dead**

14.

**“Dychymyg i gyd.”**, meddet ti

am wendid a dyn fel fi.

A goeli di 'n awr

uwch fy nghorffyn di-wawr

mae un delicet iawn oeddwn i.

**N.B. dychymyg (m.) = imagination**

**gwendid (m.) = weakness, ill-health**

**cwyn (m./f.) / cwynion = complaining, whining**

**coelio = to believe**

**uwch (ben) = above**

**corf (m.) / cyrff = corpse / bodies**

**di-wawr = lifeless**

**( gwawr (f.) = dawn )**

**un delicet iawn = a very delicate fellow**

15.

**Cynghorwn** grotesi a chrots

i beidio â bwyta shilots.

Fe allent amharu

ar egwyl o garu.

Os 'ych chi yn hynach, 's dim ots!

N.B. cynghori = to advise

croten (f.) / crotesi = girl / girls

crotyn (m.) / crots = lad / boys

peidio â bwyta = not to eat, to stop eating

gallu = to be able

[ allent = they can ]

amharu = to harm, impair, spoil

egwyl(f.) = interval, interlude

hynach = older

nid oes dim ots = it doesn't matter

16.

**Ben Ali Mohamed** ap Jincs,

sy' 'n gampwr ym myd tidli-wincs,

mor aml â pheidio,

fe 'u caiff hwy i neidio

dros ben pyramidiau a 'r Sphincs.

N.B. campwr (m.) = champion

byd (m.) = world

mor aml â pheidio = as often as not

cael i neidio = to make (them) jump [caiff = he gets]

dros ben = over the top of

17.

**Fu 'rïoed y fath beth** dros 'y mhen i

a byw drwy y gaeaf eleni.

Mae 'r eira, a 'r rhew,

a 'r barrug mor dew,

llogg eira sydd ar fy nghoes bren i.

**N.B.** erïoed = never

y fath beth = such a thing, anything like it

pen m.) / pennau = head / heads

byw = to live

gaeaf (m.) = winter

eleni = this year

eira (f.) = snow

rhew (m.) = ice, frost

barrug (m.) = hoar-frost

tew = thick, heavy

llogg eira = chilblains

[ frostbite = ewinrhew ]

coes bren = wooden leg

[ coes osod = artificial leg ]

18.

**Dau gariad** oedd yn y ciw bws

yn dwedyd ffarwel heb ddim ffws,

ond 'roedd y ciw 'n hir,

a, rhaid dweud y gwir,

'r oedd Wil yn rhy swil i roi sws.

N.B. cariad (m.) = sweet-heart

heb ddim ffws = unfussily

ciw (m.) / ciwiau = queue / queues

hir = long

rhaid (m.) = must

gwir (m.) = truth

rhy swil = too bashful

sws (m.) = kiss

19.

**RHyw ddyn oedd** o dref Colorado

a thipyn o groes yn ei wa'd o.

Brodores ei fam

o goedydd Siam,

ond dyn o Lanrwst oedd ei dad o.

**N.B. tipyn (m.) = a little**

**croes (f.) = cross**

**gwaed (m.) = blood**

**brodores (f.) = lady from [ bro (f.) / broydd = area / regions ]**

**coed (m.) / coedydd (m.) = wood / forests**

**dyn (m.) = man, fellow**

**tad (m.) = father**

20.

**Aeth Tom “Tyddyn LLwyd” i Landrindod,**  
**gan feddwl cael gwared o ‘i gryndod,**  
**ond, disgyn wnaeth bom**  
**yn agos i Tom,**  
**a gwaethygodd ei gryndod yn syndod.**

**N.B. “Tyddyn LLwyd” = “Grey Cottage”**

**meddwl = to think, have in mind**

**cael gwared = to get rid of      [ gwared (f.) = deliverance ]**

**disgyn = to drop**

**gwaethygu = to worsen      [ gwaethygodd = it got worse ]**

**cryndod (m.) = shivering      [ Crynwyr = Quakers ]**

**yn syndod = surprisingly, suddenly, amazingly**

21.

**Un Saboth** fe aeth y Parchedig  
i gwrddde mewn ardal fach wledig.  
Er mai gwan oedd y bregeth,  
y canu a phopeth,  
ar ginio cadd hwyl fendigedig.

N.B. cwrdd (m.)/ cwrddau = meeting / services [cwrddde = meetings]

ardal (f.)/ ardaloedd = district

gwledig = country, rural

[gwlad = country]

er = even though

gwan = weak, poor

pregeth (f.)/ pregethau = sermon / sermons

cinio (m./f.)/ ciniawau = meal / dinners

cael = to have

[cadd ( <<< cafodd ) = he had]

22.

**Un llet'with dychrynlyd yw Moc**

**wrth dreio cael defaid i 'r lloc.**

**Er gweiddi a chwiban,**

**Ma' nhw 'n sgathru i bobman.**

**'Wn i ddim be' sy' 'n bod ar y cnoc!**

**N.B. lletchwith = awkward, clumsy**

**dychrynlyd = terribly, awfully**

**dafad (f.)/ defaid = sheep**

**lloc (m.)/ llociau = fold, pen, enclosure**

**gweiddi = to shout**

**chwibanu = to whistle**

**ysgythru > sgathru = to cut away, scratch ; to lop, prune**

**i bob man = everywhere**

**beth sydd yn bod = what is up**

**cnoc (m.) = fool, silly-billy**

23.

**Eisteddwn yn esmwyth** mewn cader

**eleni ar bromenâd Aber.**

**Daeth gwylan fawr wen**

**i oedi uwch ben,**

**ac yna gwnaeth yr un peth ag arfer !**

**N.B. esmwyth = comfortable, quiet**

**cadair (f.) / cadeiriau = chair / seats**

**eleni = this year**

**dyfod / dod = to come**

**[ daeth = she came ]**

**gwylan (f.) / gwylanod = seagull / seagulls**

**oedi = to take time, pause, delay**

**gwneud = to do**

**[ gwnaeth = she did ]**

**yr un peth = the same thing**

**ag arfer = as usual**

**Hen wreigan** o ymyl Y Bala  
fu 'n dioddef o dan grydcymala.  
Mi lyncodd rhyw glap  
a mendiodd yn chwap.  
Yn awr does dim posibil' ei dala.

N.B. gwraig (f.) /gwagedd = wife / wives [ gwreigan ]  
ymyl (m./f.) / ymylon = edge, border  
dioddef = to suffer  
cryd (m.) = ague, fever  
cymal (m.) / cymalau = joint [ crydcymala' = rheumatism ]  
llyncu = to swallow  
clap (m.) / clapiau = lump / "stuff" / jollop  
mendio = to mend, recover  
yn chwap = instantly  
posibilrwydd (m.) = possibility  
dal / dala = to hold, catch

**'R oedd geneth fach ddel o Aleppo**  
**yn gweithio fel clerc mewn bws depo.**  
**Gwnaeth ddêt dros y ffôn**  
**efo lanc o Sir Fôn,**  
**Ond 'difarodd pan welodd ei wep o.**

**N.B. geneth (f.) / genethod = lass / girls**

**del = pretty**

**gweithio = to work**

**gwneud = to make, do**

**[ gwnaeth = she made ]**

**llanc (m.) / llanciau = youth / lads**

**edifarhau / edifaru = to regret**

**[ 'difarodd = she regretted ]**

**gweled = to see**

**[ gwelodd = she saw ]**

**gwep (f.) = grimace, visage, face**

**Eisteddwn yn esmwyth** mewn cader  
eleni ar bromenâd Aber.  
Daeth gwylan fawr wen  
i oedi uwchben  
ac yna.....gwnaeth yr un peth ag arfer !

N.B. eistedd = to sit down

yn esmwyth = comfort ably, quietly

cadair (f.) / cadeiriau = chair / seats [cader]

eleni = this year

dyfod / dod = to come along [death = along came]

gwylan (f.) / gwylanod = gull / seagulls

oedi = delay, halt, pause

uwchben = above

gwneud = to do [gwnaeth = she did]

yr un peth = the same thing

ag arfer = as usual

[arfer (m./f.) arferion = custom / habits]

**Aeth ffermwr** o ardal y Cnwch  
i 'r ffair i fargeinio am hwch,  
ond, gwir yw y gair,  
daeth adref o 'r ffair  
a lipsdic rhyw "hwch" ar ei swch.

N.B. ardal(f.) / ardaloedd = district / areas

cnwch(m.) = hillock

[LLyn Cnwch, Gwynedd]

bargeinio = to bargain

hwch(f.)/hychod = sow / sows ; " floosie "

gwir = true

gair(m.) / geiriau = word / words

dod / dyfod adref = to come home

[cartref(m.) = home]

swch(f.) / sychau = plough / ploughshares

**Bu farw** hen wŵr o Lwynpïod

'r ôl yfed diferyn yn ormod.

Does neb eto 'n siŵr

pwy oedd yr hen wŵr.

Peth od na 'sai rhywun yn gwybod.

N.B. gŵr (m.) / gwŵr = man / husbands

ar ôl yfed = after drinking

diferyn (m.) / diferynnau = touch / drops

yn ormod = too much

[ gormod (m.) = excess ]

does neb eto = no-one is yet

siwr / siŵr / sicr = sure, certain

pwy = who ?

od = strange

bod = to be

[ na buasai = that there wasn't ]

rhywun = someone

gwybod = to be in the know

**Digwyddodd** nos FFair Calan Gaeaf’;

bu ‘r ficer a fi yn y ddalfa.

Fe ‘n daliwyd ni ‘n dau

yn y bar ar ôl cau.

Dihangodd y clochydd i ‘R Bala.

N.B. digwydd = to happen [ digwyddodd = it happened ]

Calan Gaeaf = All Saints’ Day

dalfa (f.) / dalfeydd = custody / prisons

dal/dala = to catch [ ein daliwyd = we were caught ]

ni ein dau = the two of us

ar ôl cau = after closing

dianc = to escape, flee [ dihangodd = he ran away ]

clochydd(m.) / clochyddion = bell-ringer, sextons

**Roedd Efa** yn gwybod fod afal

i Adda, ei phriod, yn *fatal*.

“Cewch ma’s”, mynte ‘R LLais,

“Gwisgwch drowsus a phais.”

Mae ‘r stori i gyd yn y “Journal”.

N.B. roedd ( <<< yr oedd ) = there was

gwybod = to know

afal(m./f.) / afalau = apple / apples

priod (m./f.) = husband / wife

cael = to have

[ cewch = you ‘ll have ]

maes (m.) / meysydd = field / fields

cael y maes = to win the battle, be victorious

mynnu = to insist

[ mynte = urged ]

llais (m.) / lleisiau = voice / voices

gwisgo = to wear

trowsus (m.) / trwser = trowsers

pais (f.) / peisiau = petticoat / underskirts

i gyd = in full

**Roedd Wil yn Hyde Park ar focs sebon**  
**yn dadlau dros hawliau Iwerddon.**  
**Fe 'i chwythwyd i 'r ne'**  
**gan fom I.R.A.,**  
**ac fe gollodd e' 'Steddfod Tregaron.**

**N.B. sebon (m.) / sebonau = soap / soaps**

**dadlau = to argue, debate**

**hawl (f.) / hawliau = demand / claims / rights**

**chwythu = to blow [ chwythwyd = he was blown ]**

**nef (f.) / nefoedd = heaven / oblivion**

**colli = to lose, miss [ collodd = he lost out on ]**

**Er mwyn** cael torheulo aeth *Hannah*

ar wyliau i Gopacabana.

A nawr mae ei gwedd,

oedd mor welw â 'r bedd,

yn union yr un lliw â banana.

N.B. er mwyn = in order to

torheulo = to sunbathe

[ haul (m.) = sun ]

myned = to go

[ aeth = she went ]

nawr / yn awr = now

gwedd (f.) / gweddau = appearance / looks

gwelw = pale

mor welw â = as colourless as

bedd (m.) / beddau = grave / graves

yn union yr un lliw = exactly the same colour

**Aeth Gordon**, gweinidog “Gorffwysfa”,

i ‘R Borth ‘da blaenores “Bethania”.

Mewn tent dan y sêr

aeth pethau yn flêr.

Mae ‘r bedydd ym “Methel” Sul nesa’!

N.B. gweinidog (m.) / gweinidogion = minister / ministers

gorffwys = to rest

gorffwysfa (m.) = resting-place

‘da (<<< gyda) = with, in the company of

blaenores (f.) = leader, deacon

dan y sêr = under the stars [ seren (f.) = star ]

myned = to go [ aeth = went, got, became ]

peth (m.) /pethau = thing / things

blêr = untidy, negligent

bedydd (m.) = baptism

Dydd Sul = Sunday

nesaf = next.

**Gweinidog** o ardal Pwllheli  
sydd bellach yn ddyn ll'nau ffenestri ;  
Mae pobol gwlad LLŷn  
trwy lafur y dyn  
yn derbyn rhyw lun o oleuni.

**N.B.** gweinidog (m.) = minister

ardal (f.) = local area around Pwllheli

bellach = further on, by now in life

glanhau = to clean

pobol gwlad LLŷn = the people living on the LLŷn

llafur (m.) / llafuriau = handiwork / deeds

derbyn = to get, receive, acquire

rhyw lun = a special vision, depiction, appreciation

goleuni (m.) = light, "The Light"

**“Mae o ‘n win bach chwareus o Roma,  
yn cynnil, ond cry’ ei aroma,  
Byrlymus, ond swil.....”.**  
**“Hei, weitar,” , medd Wil,  
“jest agor y diawl a dos o ‘ma.”.**

**N.B. gwin (m.) / gwinoedd = wine / wines**

**chwareus = playful** [chwarae = to play]

**cynnil = delicate, subtle**

**cryf = strong**

**byrlymus = bubbling, gurgling; cheerful, merry**

**swil = shy, bashful**

**agor = to open**

**diafol (m.) / dieifl = the damned thing / devils** [diawl]

**dyfod â = to bring** [ Dos ! = Bring ! ]

**‘ma (<<< yma) = here**

**Roedd Ianto “LLain Wen” wedi bod**

**yn briod â Heti “LLyn RHod”**

**am rhyw naw o flynydde**

**cyn dechreuodd e ame**

**o ble roedd y babis yn dod.**

**N.B. roedd ( <<< yr oedd )**

**yn briod â = married to**

**rhod (f.) = wheel, circle, circuit, sphere**

**rhyw = some**

**naw = nine**

**blwyddyn (f.) / blynyddoedd = year / years**

**cyn dechreuodd = before he began [dechreu = to begin]**

**ame ( <<< amau ) = to doubt, wonder**

**o ble roedd ..... yn dod = where ..... were coming from**

**dod / dyfod = to come**

**'Does yma ddim olion Rhufeiniaid  
na llawer o sôn am Normaniaid,  
ond mae pob un o 'r bron  
sy' 'n byw 'n y fro hon  
yn dystion fod yma Fandaliad.**

**N.B. 'does (<<< nid oes) = there are no**

**ôl (m.) / olion = track / remains, traces**

**RHufeiniad (m.) / RHufeiniaid = Roman / Romans**

**llawer o sôn am = much mention of**

**Normaniad (m.) / Normaniaid = Norman / Normans**

**bron(f.) / bronnydd = hill, hills**

**byw = to live**

**yn y fro hon = in these parts [bro (f.) / broydd = district]**

**tyst (m.) / tystion = witness /witnesses**

**Fandaliad (m.) / Fandaliad = Vandal / Vandals**

**Wrth y giât, a 'r amlogfa mor agos,  
aeth yr hers ar dân, do, myn jincos,  
ac yno wrth glwyd,  
heb wasanaeth, na bwyd,  
crimetiwyd yr hen William Tomos.**

**N.B. amlogfa (f.) / amlogfeydd = crematorium /crematoria**

**llosgi = to burn**

**agos = near**

**ar dân = on fire**

**[ tân (m.) /tanau = fire / fires ]**

**do, myn jincos = yes, it damned well did**

**clwyd (f.) = gate, hurdle**

**heb wasanaeth = without a service**

**bwyd (m.) = food**

**'Roedd corgi** yn Llanfair-y-pethau

a safai i "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau".

Cyfarthai yn flin

i "God save the Queen"

ac ista ar 'i din,..... - fel gwnaf innau !

N.B. 'roedd (<<< yr oedd)

sefyll = to stand

[ safai = he would stand ]

cyfarth = to bark

[ cyfarthai = he would bark ]

yn flin = crossly

[ blin = tired, cross, unhappy ]

ista ( <<< eistedd = to sit )

[ ista = he sits ]

tin (m.) / tinau = backside / bottoms

fel gwnaf 'innau = as I do myself.

[ gwneud = to do ]

**Wrth groesi 'r Iorddonen, 'roedd Ifan**

**yn siarad â Phedr o 'r dorlan,**

**“Pedr bach, nid wy' 'n od,**

**ond, os Nef gafodd Blod,**

**rwy' 'n barod i fyned i Uffarn.”.**

**N.B. croesi = to cross over**

**'roedd ( <<< yr oedd <<< yr ydoedd )**

**siarad = to speak, talk**

**torlan (f.) = river bank [glan (f.) /glannau = shore / banks]**

**nid wy' ( <<< nid ydwyf fi) = I 'm not**

**Nef (f.) = Heaven**

**cael = to have**

**[cafodd = she, Blod, got]**

**rwy' (yr ydwyf fi) = I am**

**parod = ready**

**fyned = to go**

**[myned = to go to]**

**Uffarn ( <<< Uffern) = Hell**

**Gofynnais** i siopwr o 'R Bermo,

“Ai llygod a welaf yn fanco  
rhwng y menyn a 'r gwin?”.

“Itha' reit.”, ebe 'r dyn,

“Deg ceiniog yr un mae nhw 'n gostio.

N.B. gofyn = to ask

[ gofynnais - I asked ]

'R Bermo ( <<< Abermaw ) = Barmouth

llygoden (f.) / llygod = mouse / mice

gweled = to see

[ gwelaf = I see ]

fanco = ( <<< yn y fan acw )

[ man (m./f.) = place ]

acw = over there

rhwng = between

ymenyn / menyn (m.) = butter

gwin (m.) / gwinoedd = wine / wines

itha' reit = ( <<< eithaf reit ) = quite right

ceiniog (f.) / ceiniogau = penny / pence

yr un = each

**Un noson** gerllaw Piccadilly

fe glywodd Wil lais ; “Hello, dearie.”.

Pan gafodd y bil

gofynnodd yn swil,

“ ‘Neith “Access” ? Mae o ‘n gwneud ym Mhwllheli.”.

**N.B.** noson (f.) / nosweithiau = evening / nights

gerllaw = near, close to

clywed = to hear

[ clywodd = he heard ]

llais (m.) / lleisiau = voice

cael = to get

[ cafodd = he got ]

gofyn = to ask

[ gofynnodd = he enquired ]

yn swil = bashfully

gwneud = to do

[ ‘neith <<< gwneith = will “Access” do ? ]

45.

**Aeth mynach** o Urdd y Sistersiaid  
yn dderyn 'r ôl yfed casgenaid,  
a dyna paham  
fod trwynau bach cam  
mor amlwg ym MHontrhydfendigaid !

N.B. myned = to go [aeth = he became]

mynach (m.) / mynachod = monk / monks

Sistersiaid(m.) = Cistercians

yn dderyn = \* a bit of a lad\*

[aderyn(m.) / adar = bird / birds]

yfed = to drink

casgen(m.) / casgenni = cask, barrel

paham = why

trwyn(m.) / trwynau = nose / noses

cam / ceimion = crooked

mor amlwg = so much in evidence

Pontrhydfendigaid

**'Roedd boi bach** yn byw yn San Clêr  
yn cysgu bob nos dan y sêr.  
Roedd e 'n iawn yn yr haf  
pan we' 'r tywy' yn braf,  
ond pan wedd hi 'n o'r, wedd e 'n wêr.

N.B. 'roedd ( <<< yr oedd <<< yr ydoedd )

byw = to live

cysgu = to sleep

bob nos = every night

seren(f.) / sêr = star / stars

iawn = fine

haf(m.) / hafau = summer / summers

we' ( <<< oedd )

tywydd(m.) = weather

braf = fine

o'r ( <<< oer ) = cold

gwêr(m.) = tallow ; shade

**Mae** 'r Heiniken-bîr o nerth dwbwl,  
rhaid ei yfed yn garcus, 'na 'r trwbwl.  
Mae 'n cyrraedd y rhannau  
a mwydo y mannau  
nid yw 'r lleill yn eu cyffwrdd o gwbwl.

**N.B. nerth (m.) / nerthoedd = strength / powers**

**rhaid (m.) = necessity**

**yfed = to drink**

**yn garcus = carefully**

**'n cyrraedd = reaches**

**[cyrraedd = to reach]**

**rhan (f.) / rhannau = section / parts**

**mwydo = to soak**

**man (m./f.) / mannau = place / spots**

**llall / lleill = another / others**

**cyffwrdd = to touch**

**o gwbwl = at all**

**[ cwbwl (m.) = whole ]**

**Fe syrthiodd** rhyw ferch o Gwmorthin

heb sylwi i lwyn mawr o eithin’.

Fe dreiddiodd y pige

i ‘w breichie a ‘i choese,

ac eraill i fannau mwy cyfrin.

N.B. syrthiodd = she fell [syrthio = to fall]

[ Cwmorthin ( <<< cwm + marthin ) = sparrow-hawk valley]

heb sylwi = without noticing, inadvertently

llwyn (m.) / llwyni = bush / bushes

eithinen (f.) / eithin = gorse

dreiddiodd = stabbed [treiddio = to penetrate, stab]

pige ( <<< pigau ) = beaks, barbs [ pig (f.) = beak ]

breichie ( <<< breichiau ) = arms [ braich (f.) = arm ]

coese ( <<< coesau ) = legs [ coes (f.) leg ]

eraill = others

man (m./f.) / mannau = spot / places

cyfrin = secret, private.

**RHyw wŕ** o gyfeiriad Porth Amlwch

ddiflannodd heb air i 'r anialwch.

Ei wraig oedd mor falch

gael gwared â 'r gwalch

fe ddyblodd ei rhodd DDiolchgarwch.

N.B. gŵr = man

cyfeiriad (m.) / cyfeiriadau = address / direction, way

[ Amlwch ( <<< am + llwch ) = place around the inlet ]

diflannu = to vanish [diflannodd = he disappeared]

heb air = without a word

anialwch (m.) / anialdiroedd = wilderness / deserts

gwraig (f.) / gwagedd = wife / wives

balch = happy

cael gwared â = to get shot of

gwalch (m.) / gweilch = knave, rogue / rascals, scoundrels

dyblu = to double [dyblodd - she doubled]

rhodd (f.) / rhoddion = contribution / gifts

diolchgarwch (m.) = thankfulness, gratitude

[ elusen (f.) / elusennau = charity / alms ]

## 51. CHARACTER.

**“Limericks are jovial things.” This kind-hearted overview, that the novelist and connoisseur of limericks, Norman Douglas, offers to us all, applies equally to the very clean ones and to the unreservedly bawdy ones. Smile or chuckle as you judge each joviality just as it is. You will soon know which ones you like most. At one end of the spectrum must be the contents of the “Limerick Prayer Book”, published by the Roman Catholic “Society of St. Peter and St. Paul” and prefaced with :-**

**“These rhymes were designed by a priest**

**to affect your religion like yeast.**

**If they help it to grow,**

**like the yeast in the dough,**

**there ‘ll be one better Christian at least.”**

**Meanwhile, at the other end of the huge spectrum, The Poets Club of New York City is collecting new and original limericks and other, little known, clubs are card-filing in**

their archives every erotic limerick known to English speaking man ! But, by definition, though, this goal can never be achieved , because , as being very much part of an oral tradition, a vast number never got into print. Consider spontaneous confections at a party of some sort, altered versions of poorly recalled limericks from earlier excited gatherings, deliberately offensive ones, let alone the boldly bawdy and unreservedly erotic. The possibilities are enormous. Authentic folklore has always eluded complete commitment to the printed page, even in the age of the computer !

#### **SHAPE.**

Most commonly the limerick is an anecdote in anapaestic verse. Typically, one rhyme unites the nine beat lines 1,2 and 5, while a different rhyme unites the six beat lines 3 and 4. Whether “pure” or “naughty”, to metrical perfection has to be added verbal felicity and a quick turn of very sharp wit, if you are to produce the finest examples. As for construction of your anecdote,

Line 1 should set the scene and introduce the main character,

Line 2 may introduce a second character and should open the action that will precipitate the crisis,

Lines 3 & 4 will intensify the suspense,

Line 5 brings in the climax and denouement of the plot.

#### **ORIGINS.**

Some scholars have seen something of a limerick in the words of the roistering Athenians in Aristophanes’

play, "The Wasps". Others believe in an English origin, pointing at the song (c. 1300), "Summer is a-cumen in" and a later one (after the dissolution of the monasteries), intitled "Mad Tom", and sung about the beggars that Henry VIII helped to create. In 1604, however, a precise example appears in "Othello" (II, 3, 68-72).

In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup>.century by far the largest class of limericks burst into print, namely the "geographical" ones. A harmless example, very popular a century later on in 1834, is :-

"There was a young man of St.Kitts,  
who was very much troubled with fits.  
The eclipse of the moon  
threw him into a swoon,  
when he tumbled and broke into bits."

Certainly the 19<sup>th</sup>. century is when interest in the limerick really surges. The first book of limericks is published in 1821 and much thought is given to a Franco-Irish origin for the term,"limerick".

After 1691 the Irish Brigade served for more than a hundred years in France. Patrick Sarsfield had surrendered the town of Limerick to King William's men and had lead many stalwarts over the English Channel to fight for Louis XIV. Not only did they encounter a French tradition nicely illustrated by :-

"Digerie, digerie, doge,  
la souris ascend l' horloge.  
L' horloge frappe;  
La souris s' echappe.  
Digerie, digerie, doge."

but they must also have carried a few folkloric treasures of their own with them into exile. When veterans did get back to Limerick, they could rely on a splendid repertoire and in 1898 the term "limerick" finally appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary.

By then Edward Lear (1812 - 1888), a book illustrator to four successive Earls of Derby, had earned his fame as "The Poet Laureate of the Limerick". Strangely, though, Lear never pretended that he had invented the term, "limerick", nor did he ever use the word, even as he compiled 212 of them for inclusion in his (1846) "Book of Nonsense" and his (1872) "More Nonsense, Pictures, Rhymes, Botany, Etc.", i.e. the first two of his five books of nonsense verse. Further humorous contributions came from Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832 - 1898), whose "nom de plume" was Lewis Carroll, and even Sir Arthur Sullivan was to discover the gifts of Sir William Schwenk Gilbert (1856 - 1911) when these lines appeared in "The Sorcerer" :-

"Oh, my name is John Wellington Wells.

I'm a dealer in magic and spells,

in blessings and curses,

in ever-filled purses,

in prophecies, witches and knells."

Other writers to enjoy themselves included Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894), George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950) and Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828 - 1882).

As the 20<sup>th</sup>. century unfurled, enthusiasm for the limerick was channelled into competitions. The first example appeared in Langford Reed's "London Opinion", to be followed by a host of other newspapers and periodicals. Even the introduction of an admission fee of sixpence was no deterrent. By 1930 it was time for an American to

produce a handbook for earnest enthusiasts under the title "How to Write Prize-winning Limericks" ! As late as 1965 4,200 entries were submitted to "Business Week" in pursuit of a splendid first prize, namely a round trip for two people to go to.....Limerick !

By now, though, the heyday of this "jovial" poetry seems to have come and gone, even though compilations are acknowledged by Rudyard Kipling (1865 - 1936), John Galsworthy (1867 - 1933), T.S. Eliot (1888 - 1965), W.H. Auden (1907 - ), Ogden Nash (1902 - ) and President Woodrow Wilson (1856 - 1924). Perhaps we do know quite a lot about the limerick by now, but there will always be a colossal volume of knowledge that will escape us.

Being folkloric by its nature, the limerick is inescapably part of our oral tradition. Throughout the ages most compositions (and their variants !) will never have been committed to print. The scabrous and very "unclean" ones will have been heartily saluted and savoured, mostly in select company, but highly likely to have been overlooked when it came to putting them down on the open page for all the world to see and marvel at, or even destroyed after the author's death, as was the case with the fine erotic ones that Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 - 1892) wrote.

**In joyful conclusion consider the following :-**

**“ Ym myd y limrig  
y mae unrhyw beth a phopeth yn bosibl  
a chyfrifoldeb y limrigwr yw  
rhoddi “ tragwyddol heol” i ‘w ddychymyg.”**

**(“ Where the limerick is concerned  
anything and everything is a possibility  
and the writer’s responsibility is  
to provide an ever open road for his imagination.”)**

**The only judge of what is a good limerick and which  
is the best that you have ever seen or heard is.....YOU !**

**R.H.O. (2018)**