

Traditions in Wales

Yr Hen Galan (Old New Year) Y Fari Lwyd Calennig Perllan



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The history of Hen Galan.

Traditions of Hen Galan: Y Fari Lwyd, Calennig, Perllan

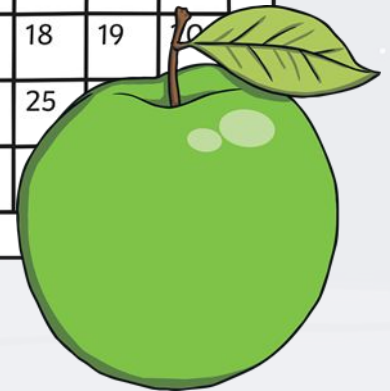
Activities:

1. How to make a perllan decoration.
2. Learning the words to the song 'Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i Chi'.
3. Comparing Old New Year (Hen Galan) and modern day New Year celebrations.



January

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Yr Hen Galan – The Old New Year

Most of us in the UK celebrate the beginning of the New Year on the 1st January.

Did you know that in some parts of Wales, people celebrate the New Year on 13 January?

Some places that celebrate are the Gwaun Valley in Pembrokeshire, Cowbridge and Aberystwyth.



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Why Did People Celebrate Hen Galan?

For hundreds of years, Britain used the **Julian** calendar, which celebrated the New Year on **13th January**.

In September **1752**, the calendar was changed to the **Gregorian** calendar.

This meant that the Gregorian New Year's Day fell on the 'new' 1st January, 13 days before the old Julian calendar's **1st January!**

This change was very **unpopular** in many parts of Wales.

Some people chose to celebrate both New Years!



How Was Hen Galan Celebrated?

People celebrated by preparing **special foods** and **drinks**.

Villagers travelled from house to house with the **Mari Lwyd** to 'let in' or welcome the coming year.



Children went from door to door and sang to receive their **calennig**.

They carried apple charms called a **perllan**.



Y Fari Lwyd

The **Mari Lwyd** was one of the strangest traditions of **Hen Galan**.

It was a horse's skull covered with a cloth and ribbons.

They put the skull on a pole so that the person who was under the cloth could open and close the mouth.



Y Fari Lwyd

The Mari Lwyd would be led by a crowd to visit every house in the area.

They would sing or recite verses and ask permission to enter.

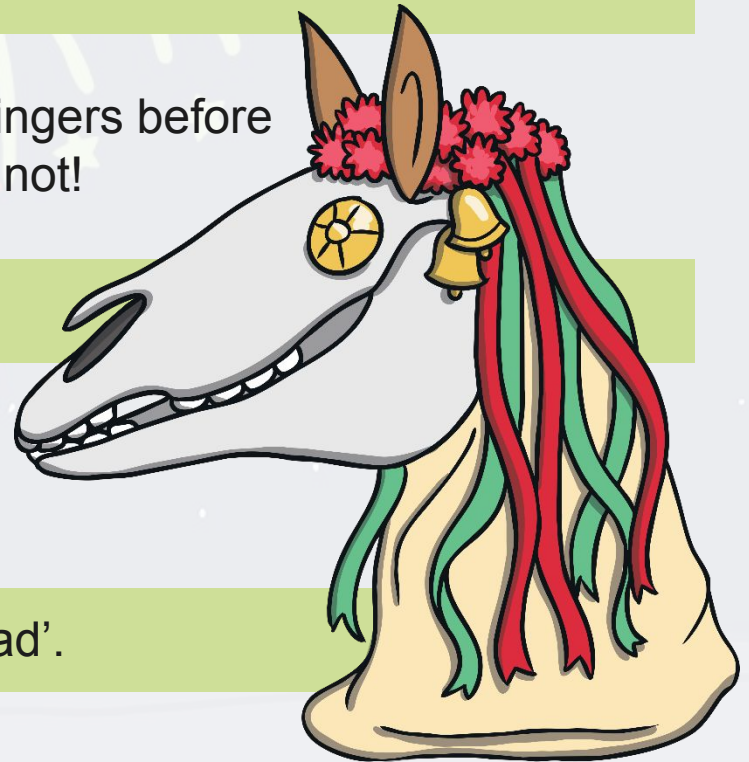
The house owners would listen to the singers before deciding whether to let them in or not!

What do you think of the Mari Lwyd?

This was called

It was unlucky not to let the Mari Lwyd in, even so, not everyone did!

When this happened, it was called 'dirywiad'.



Calennig

Calennig means New Year celebration or gift.

This is a very old custom that is still popular today.

They would receive small gifts or money called calennig.

Have you ever been to collect calennig?

Groups of children would visit neighbour's houses before midday on New Year's Day and sing a song.



Perllan

Children carried a perllan with them when asking for calennig. The perllan was a good luck charm.

It was made from apples, twigs, sprigs of evergreen leaves and cloves.

They were for bringing luck in the coming year.

You will need:

- 1 apple (red or green)
- 3 small twigs (for legs)
- Cloves (if you have them)
- Sprigs of evergreen leaves



The Calennig Song



Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi
Ac i bawb sydd yn y tŷ.
Dyma fy nymuniad i,
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi.



How Do We Celebrate New year Now?

Are the ways similar or different to Hen Galan?
Can you make a list to compare the information:

**Hen Galan (Old New Year)
Traditions:**

Modern New Year traditions:

(Some celebrations will be past
your bedtime!)



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