

LIFE AND CULTURE

Language

Not many people know that the coracle community use their very own Welsh language when talking about coracle terms, these words have thought to have been derived from medieval Welsh words.

These words have been used on the River Towy for hundreds of years and are still used today. A secret Welsh language only used and understood by the small community of the Carmarthen Coracle.

Clyfwchwr

On the 1st March is the official start of the 2019 Towy Coracle Fishing season. '**Clyfwchwr**': A Towy Coracle word for when seven stars can be seen in a night sky, it's then deemed dark enough to fish.

Fish Names

The fish they catch have different names that only the coraclers would understand:

Ginyn - Salmon 7lbs or less

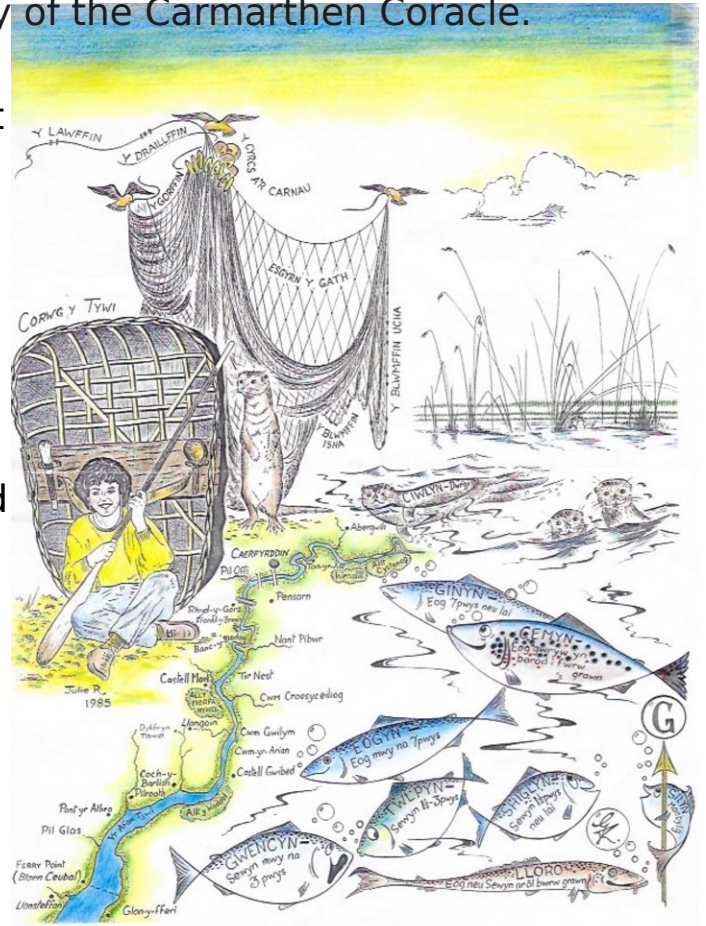
Gemyn - male Salmon ready to mate

Eogyn - Salmon over 7lbs

Gwencyn - Sewin over 3lbs

Twlpyn - Sewin 1 ½ - 3lbs

Shiglyn - Sewin 1 ½ lb or less



Many place names were only used by the coracle fishermen. There was a need to keep secret the best areas to fish in. The picture above shows lots of the place names used.

Below are some other place names used by coraclers.

Shutters Gate - an Italian used to dictate the route used by the coraclers, and there was a gate across the path at one point, and every time the Italian saw a coracler open the gate he would cry, 'Shuta-da-gate'. It was then named Shutters Gate.

The Bwtri - a pond that acts as a 'hut' - a good placed in the middle of the river to catch fish. It was near Geilan Goch, close to the Carmarthen railway junction.

Dwlali Wall - this is where stone-filled boats of Green Castle causeway were lapping up when coming from stone to build Carmarthen Asylum; The Dwlali wall was the last place that hackers could land before reaching the Pwll Du area near the sea.