

Courting Customs

Traddodiadau Caru

Wales had many customs connected to meeting your true love. If you weren't in a relationship, there were plenty of ways to foresee the identity of your future boyfriend or girlfriend.



Night courting

It wasn't easy in rural Wales to meet your lover when you worked long hours and lived far apart. The solution was the custom of young lads visiting their girlfriends by night. Farm labourers and dairy maids often slept in the lofts of outbuildings. The lads just had to climb the 'ysgol caru' (the ladder of love) and hope the window was open. Risks: the weather, angry employers and aggressive sheepdogs.

Caru gyda'r nos

Doedd hi ddim yn hawdd cwrrdd â'ch cariad yn y Gymru wledig os oeddech yn gweithio oriau hir ac yn byw ymhell o'ch gilydd. Yr ateb oedd y traddodiad bod hogiau ifanc yn ymweld â'u cariadon gyda'r hwyr. Yn aml byddai labrwr fferm a morwynion y llaethdy'n cysgu yn lloffydd adeiladau fferm. Y cyfan oedd angen oedd i'r hogiau ddringo'r 'ysgol garu' a gobeithio bod y ffenestr ar agor. Peryglon: Y tywydd, cyflogwyr dig a chŵn defaid ffyrnig.



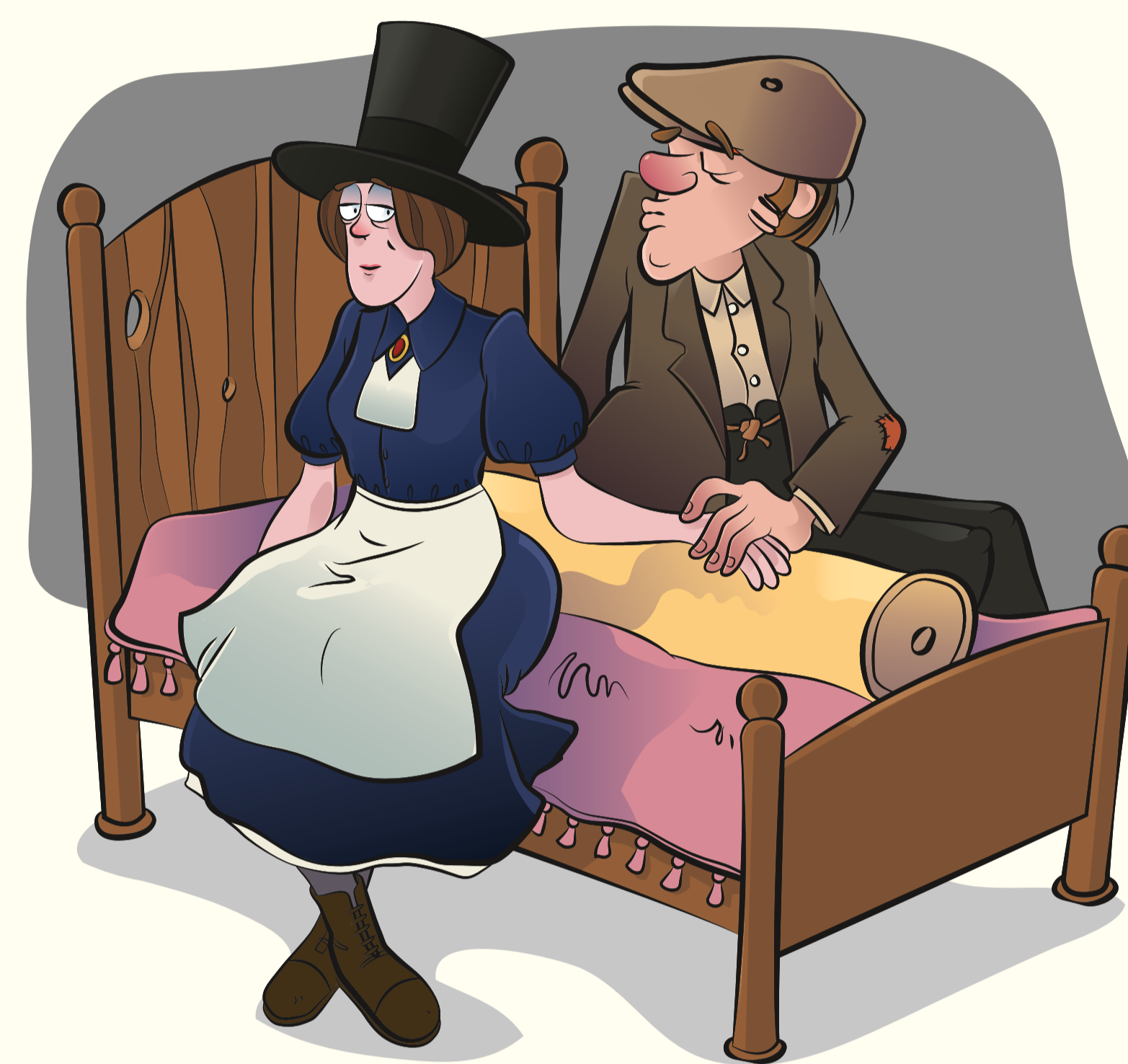
The Birch tree

The birch tree has a long association with love and lovemaking in Wales. Dafydd ab Edmwnd, the 15th century Welsh poet, wrote a poem to thank Gwen Hwlyn of Hanmer for giving him a 'cae bedw' (birch garland). Dafydd ap Gwilym, the 14th century poet, said a 'het fedw' (birch hat) was better than a ring as it symbolised love not money. Birch twigs were used as love tokens into modern times. However, if you wanted to reject someone, you gave them a hazel twig.

Y goeden Fedw

Yng Nghymru mae'r goeden fedw wedi'i chysylltu ers amser maith â chariad a charu. Ysgrifennodd Dafydd ab Edmwnd, y bardd Cymreig o'r 15fed ganrif, gerdd i ddiolch i Gwen Hwlyn o Hanmer am roi cae (garlant) bedw iddo. Dywedodd Dafydd ap Gwilym, y bardd o'r 14eg ganrif, fod het fedw'n well na modrwy gan ei bod hi'n cynrychioli cariad yn lle arian. Defnyddiwyd brigau bedw fel symbol o gariad hyd at yr oes fodern. Fodd bynnag, os oeddech eisiau gwrthod rhywun, mi fydddech chi'n rhoi brigyn o gollen iddynt.

Bu llawer traddodiad yng Nghymru ynghylch dod o hyd i'ch gwir gariad. Os nad oeddech chi mewn perthynas, roedd yna nifer o ffyrdd o gael gwybod pwy fyddai'n gariad i chi yn y dyfodol.



Bundling

Farm labourers and house servants had few places to socialise and little privacy. Bundling, known in Wales as 'caru ar y gwely' (loving on the bed) was the tradition of young couples being allowed to socialise on the bed in private. Bundling stockings were worn to prevent too much intimacy. Risks: disapproval of the local vicar and the church in general.

Caru ar y gwely

Ychydig lefydd oedd gan labrwr fferm a gweision tŷ i gymdeithasu, ac ychydig o breifatrwydd oedd ganddynt chwaith. 'Caru ar y gwely' oedd y traddodiad o adael i gyplau ifanc gymdeithasu ar wely yn breifat. Gwisgwyd hosanau arbennig i'w rhwystro rhag dod yn rhy gyfarwydd â'i gilydd. Peryglon: Anghymeradwyaeth y ficer lleol, a'r eglwys yn gyffredinol.



Future Lovers

For a girl to learn the identity of her future lover, she should bake a small salty cake using the egg of a pullet. She should eat half the cake and then put the other half in the foot of her left stocking and place both under her pillow. She will see her future boyfriend appear in a dream holding a glass of water. Other beliefs and customs were available. Please ask for details.

Cariadon y Dyfodol

Er mwyn cael gwybod pwy fydd ei chariad, rhaid i ferch ifanc bobî cacen fach hallt gan ddefnyddio wy cywen. Rhaid iddi fwyta hanner y gacen ac wedyn rhoi'r hanner arall yn nhroed ei hosan chwith, a rhoi'r ddwy hosan o dan ei chlustog. Mi fydd hi'n gweld ei chariad yn ymddangos mewn breuddwyd yn dal gwydraid o ddŵr. Bu credoau a thraddodiadau eraill ar gael hefyd. Gofynnwch am fanylion.

