

# Brymbo Man

## Wrexham's Oldest Inhabitant

On Monday 18th August 1958, workmen digging a trench outside 79, Cheshire View, Brymbo, discovered a large stone slab about a foot beneath the surface. They removed the corner of the stone, only to find a hole underneath. One of the men shone a light through into the darkness to reveal the remains of a human skeleton in a stone-lined grave...

Work stopped and the experts were called in. Archaeologists from the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, eager to investigate this chance discovery, travelled north to Brymbo. They excavated the grave and found the partial remains of a skeleton lying in a crouched position, a decorated pottery beaker and a flint knife. They quickly realised the historic importance of the finds and agreed arrangements for their transfer to Cardiff for further study.



Ar ddydd Llun 18fed Awst 1958, cafodd gweithwyr yn cloddio ffos y tu allan i 79, Golygfa Sir Caer, Brymbo, hyd i ddarn mawr o garreg rhyw droedfedd dan yr wyneb. Ar ôl symud cornel y garreg gwelant fod twll oddi tani. Goleuodd un o'r dynion y tywyllwch gan ddangos gweddillion sgerbwd dynol mewn bedd carreg.

Rhoddyd y gorau i'r gwaith a galw'r arbenigwyr. Teithiodd archeolegwyr o Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru yng Nghaerdydd i'r gogledd, yn awyddus i archwilio'r darganfyddiad hwn ar hap. Ar ôl cloddio'r bedd, cawsant olion rhannol sgerbwd yn gorwedd ar ei gwrcwd, bicer crochenwaith addurnog a chyllell fflint. Ar unwaith sylweddolwyd pwysigrwydd hanesyddol y darganfyddiadau a threfnwyd eu trosgwyddo i Gaerdydd.

**Read if the discovery proved unlikely and the grave were seen on the stone to get the story of the excavation from the friend by chance on a north Wales hillside.**

To hear a news bulletin on the historic burial found at Brymbo, press the button...

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**A flinted beaker, recognition of decorated crochenwaith bicer yn ôl ymbo, pwysoch y botwm...**



The scene at 79, Cheshire View, where the remains were first discovered, August 1958. © Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales

The scene at 79, Cheshire View, where the remains were first discovered, August 1958. © Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales

# Dyn Brymbo

## Preswlydd Hysbys Hynaf Wreicsam

### Introducing Brymbo Man

Within days, the skeleton found in the stone-lined grave was named Brymbo Man, but who was he and what do we know about him?

We can tell a lot by studying his remains. He was a rugged looking, powerfully built man, about 5'8" (173cm) tall, who led an active lifestyle. He was about 35 years old when he died. He survived a serious injury to his head, and his bones show no sign of disease. These facts are generally agreed, but when was he alive and where did he come from?

**Brymbo Man Key Facts**

Age: 35  
Date of Birth: between 2205 - 1935 BC  
Height: 5'8" / 173cm  
Hair: Brown  
Build: Strong & Athletic  
Distinguishing Features: Arrow wound above hairline

**Dyn Brymbo Ffotograff Allweddol**

Oed: 35  
Dyddiad Geni: rhwng 2205 CC a 1935 CC  
Sedf: 5'8" / 173cm  
Gwallt: Brown  
Corff: Cryf ac Athletaidd  
Nodweddion Gwahanolweddol: Cyllell fflint weddberthnwyd y gwast.

The answers to these questions have changed as our knowledge of the past has increased.

Back in 1958, Brymbo Man was one of the Beaker Folk, a distinct race, who migrated to Britain from continental Europe about four thousand years ago and slowly pushed westwards. These immigrants, unlike the natives, knew how to work metal. They buried their dead individually with grave goods - including their characteristic beakers. The design of the beakers changed over time and Brymbo Man's short-necked beaker was dated to around 1700 - 1600 BC, so dating the burial itself.



The latest interpretation is very different. Brymbo Man may have been an 'incomer', but he wasn't necessarily a member of a different ethnic group. There were no Beaker people; ideas spread through trade and cultural contacts. Local people mastered new skills and adopted new ideas as they encountered them according to their own needs. The first beakers appeared in Britain around 2500 BC and Brymbo Man's beaker probably dates between 2200 - 1900 BC.

There is much more we can learn about Brymbo Man and science can provide some of the answers.

### Cyffwrdd Dyn Brymbo

Cyn pen dim, cafodd y sgerbwd yn y bedd carreg yr enw Dyn Brymbo, ond pwy oedd o a beth wyddom ni amdano?

Gallwn ddeud llawer trwy astudio ei olion. Roedd yn ddyn gwyn i olwg, gyda chorff grymus, tua 5 troedfedd 8 modfedd (173cm) o ddrôl, oedd yn byw bywyd egniol. Roedd tua 35 oed pan fu farw. Goroesodd anaf difrifol i'w beth ac nid yw ei eiddog yn dangos unrhyw arwydd o afiechynt. Cyfarwyd yn gyffredinol ar y feithiau hyn, ond pryd oedd o'n fyw ac o ble y daeth o?

Nawddodd yr atebion i'r cwestiynau hyn wrth i'n gwybodaeth gynyddu am y gorffennol.

Yn ôl yn 1958, un o Bobi y Biccer oedd Dyn Brymbo, hi'r wahanol a fudodd i Brydain o'r gogledd Ewrop tua ohaer mil o fynyddoedd yn ôl a chynraedd y gorllewin yn raddol. Yn wahanol i'r brodorion, roedd y mwntidwyr hyn yn gwybod sut i weithio metel. Roeddent yn claddu eu meirw ar eu pennau'n hunain gyda newyddau bedd - gan gynnwys eu biceri nodweddiadol. Nawddodd cynllun y biceri drosgwyddo a ddiwydd bicer gwyd byr Dyn Brymbo i 1700 - 1600 CC, gan ddyddio'r giaddedigwaith ei hun.

Mae'r dehongliad diweddaraf yn wahanol iawn. Etallia mai 'mewnffudwr' ydychi, oedd Dyn Brymbo ond nid oedd o angenrheidiol yn y parthyn i grwp eithrig gwahanol. Nid oedd unrhyw Bobi Biccer roedd syniadau'n lledaenu trwy fasnach a chysylltiadau diwyllianol. Meistrloedd pobl lleol sgiliau newydd a mabwysladau syniadau newydd wrth iddynt ddod ar eu traws yn unol â'u hanghienion eu hunain. Ymddangosodd y biceri cynnal yn Mwydian o Gampas 2500 CC ac mae bicer Dyn Brymbo'n dyddio rhwng 2200 CC a 1900 CC yn ôl pob tebyg.

Gallwn ddysgu llawer trwy eto ymgholli Dyn Brymbo a gall gwyddoniaeth roi rhai o'r atebion.

**NOTE**  
WINDOW: AESTHETIC POSITION GUIDE  
REMOVE PRE-PRODUCTION

**Back into the past!**  
Look through the glass to see what the workmen at Brymbo first saw!

How did they know it was something special?

**Clipping of a professional!**  
Edryddwch drwy'r gwydr i weld beth gwelwyd y gwreiddwyr gyntaf yn Brymbo. Sut roeddent yn gwybod fod hwn yn fwydwaith arbennig?