

Chris Price氏によるカメラ紹介（1）

東川達三会員による紹介で、南部カメラのポンティプール出身で現在カーディフにお勤めのクリス・プライス氏にご投稿頂きました。現地カメラに住むカメラ人の視点から、定期的に現地の情報を届けて頂くことになりました。今回は、プライス氏によるカメラの全般的紹介記事を豊富な写真と共に掲載致します。

Self-introduction

A few words about me; I was born in a town called Pontypool in the South East of Wales, and spent most of my childhood living in the same area. I have a connection with Japan, having lived in Niigata between 1997 and 2001. I also have a Japanese wife.



クリス・プライスさん

I currently live and work in Cardiff, the capital city of Wales. I work as a Patent Attorney, at a firm called EIP representing various Japanese, US and European firms. My office is in the centre of Cardiff, and I live in a suburb about 4 km away.

In my first article for the *Cylchlythyr*, I would like to say that it is a great honour to be asked to contribute.

Wales is a small country which is not very well known throughout the world, so it is wonderful to know that there are people taking an interest in us in Japan.



事務所のバルコニーから眺めたカーディフ城とキャッスル・ストリート

I look forward to introducing various aspects of modern Welsh life to you.

What is Wales?

As you will know, although Wales is usually referred to as a “country”, it is in fact not an independent state in its own right, but part of the United Kingdom, along with England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There is a Welsh Government, which has control over some aspects of Welsh life, such as education and health policy. However, the UK government based in London has responsibility for most of the laws and policies which affect Wales. Bearing this in mind, people often find it difficult to understand what the precise nature of Wales the “country” is, and what makes us different to other parts of the United Kingdom. Here are a few important aspects which I think help give Wales its identity. Not all of the following aspects are all individually unique to Wales, but the combination of these things is what I think of when I think of Wales.

Language

The most obvious distinguishing feature Wales has is the Welsh language. While languages other than English are spoken in other parts of the United Kingdom, Welsh is by far the most spoken minority language. Although many Welsh people do not speak more than a few words of Welsh, especially in the big population centres on the South Coast, in some parts, especially in the North and West, Welsh remains the language of daily life. Even in English speaking areas, most signs and public literature are produced in both languages.



事務所一階から見たカーディフ城とキャッスル・ストリート

Politics

Wales is distinctly more left-wing than the UK as a whole. While the UK government is currently led by the right wing Conservative party, the Welsh government is run by the left wing Labour party. In the most recent UK general election in 2010, in the UK as a whole the Conservatives won 307 seats compared to Labour's 258, but in Wales the Conservatives won only 3 seats to Labour's 29. There is also a history of strong trade unions and activism in Wales.



カーディフの商店街クイーン・ストリート

Sport

While Wales competes as part of a British team for some sporting events (for example, the Olympics), for many sports Wales competes separately from other parts of the United Kingdom. This is notably the case for Wales' national sport, rugby, in which not only does Wales compete separately from the other parts of the UK, but also has some of its most competitive rivalries with those parts, especially England. In my view, this sporting separation is one of the most important aspects of Wales' individual identity. On the day of a rugby match against England, Welsh fans sing the national anthem, wave the Welsh flag and, for the duration of the match, England become "the enemy".



商店街の並ぶセントジョン・ストリート

Countryside

Wales has some breathtakingly beautiful natural scenery, including some spectacular coastlines and awe-inspiring mountains. That it rains often in Wales is well-known. This can be unpleasant of course, but it does also mean that the countryside is beautifully green. If I spend a long time away from Wales, I miss the green scenery.

People

During my time living in Japan, I often found myself feeling quite British. Some years later, I spent some time living in London, and at times found myself feeling quite Welsh. I think the atmosphere in Wales is usually quite relaxed. People are quite tolerant, and do not tend to take themselves too seriously.

I shall expand on some of these themes in future articles.

(Chris Price)