



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**14 July 2012; For Immediate Use**

### **King Arthur's 'Caerleon Games' of AD 540 are part of Britain's and the world's sporting heritage, says history group**

### **New 2-page history of Britain launches for free via BT's educational website – to inspire the nation's youngsters in a proud Olympic year**

A new short history of Britain is to be made available free online to the nation's schools, courtesy of BT. The history is in the form of a CV and is called The Young Citizens' National CV of Britain. It comprises just two pages, but is underpinned by a vast database of Britain's history and pioneering achievements called the 'CVpedia', on an associated website.

BT is an Official Olympic Sponsor so the citizen-scholars behind the new history have been looking into the nation's sporting tradition. The National CV Group claims that not only is Britain's sporting heritage the richest of any nation [see Notes for Editors] but that it includes the record of an international sporting event put on by no less a figure than King Arthur himself.

The story is told in the *Tysilio Chronicle*. This is a history of the early Britons started by a monk called Tysilio in the AD 600s - the century after Arthur - and preserved in a medieval manuscript held in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, 'Jesus MS LXI'. The modern translator of the *Tysilio Chronicle* is Dr Bill Cooper, a member of The National CV Group.

In the *Tysilio Chronicle* we read that Arthur held a 'great and marvellous feast' at Caerleon-on-Usk near modern-day Newport in Gwent, South Wales.

And there was not an ambitious man this side of Spain who did not attend the feast... And having dined, all went outside the city to see the jousting and other sports, for every game that could be thought of was being played there. And the ladies watched from the battlements of the city, from whence each of them showed which knight she favoured most. And for this cause did each man perform the bravest deed he could. And whosoever emerged victorious from the games, was awarded

prizes for his labours, each at the cost of the king's treasury. And after three days and three nights of such festivities, it was enacted on the fourth day that each who had given service would be rewarded for his deeds.

Comments the leader of The National CV Group, Dr John Hart: "This is a wonderful story of King Arthur holding an international sporting get-together in what we deduce was AD 540. It was evidently a keenly contested Olympic-style multi-event affair, held over a number of days and culminating in the Arthurian equivalent of a medal ceremony. A key difference between then and now is that women aren't only spectators any more, but competitors as well. The Caerleon Games are part of Britain's sporting heritage, but also the world's."

## **The Young Citizens' National CV of Britain**

The document soon to be available on BT's educational website is 'Britain in Brief', a free two-page history of the nation which links to the primary and secondary curriculum areas of PSHE, Citizenship & History, whilst also having potential uses in Science & Literacy.

The Young Citizens' National CV has been created to surprise and inspire students and give them a more buoyant sense of belonging, during a proud period of British history graced by a Diamond Jubilee, the XXXth Olympiad and the Paralympics.

Here is described the nation's pioneering history in its entire sweep, from megalithic Stonehenge to internet modernity and from miners to monarchs. The material is presented in the form of a CV - so that's 'Name: Britain', 'Age: 8,000 years an island' and so on. With this document, the rising generation of 'Influential Islanders' is invited to 'Apply for the future'

BT supported the creation especially for youngsters of a version of The National CV of Britain. The result is The Young Citizens' National CV of Britain. Below this pair of CVs is a vast 'CVpedia' database (<http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk/natcvpedia.html>), which validates the claims in the CVs and provides further source material for students to discover and at which to marvel. Below the CVpedia itself is a tier of specialist articles, for the determined seeker after knowledge (<http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk/more.html>). The CVs, the CVpedia and the CVpedia More Articles represent a three-tier Structure of Knowledge, freely available as a national educational resource.

The Young Citizen's National CV is the first of its kind in the world and thus epitomises Britain's record of pioneering. It has been created by a passionate group of citizen-scholars from multiple fields to inspire the nation. Their upbeat work is informed with the unique visual language of highly original artist Frank Xerox and has its own original soundtrack by Steve Sharples, one of Britain's leading contemporary composers.

The Young Citizens' National CV of Britain is now available via The National CV website:

<http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk/youngcv.html> (or shortly via BT's educational website, <http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Learningandskills/index.htm>)

Find out more about The National CV Project and access the CVpedia online via [www.thenationalcv.org.uk](http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk)

The full 30-page version of The National CV and the full CVpedia (300+ pages) are available together for purchase at:

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-National-CV-Britain-ebook/dp/B0085JVLCY/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1341925280&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-National-CV-Britain-ebook/dp/B0085JVLCY/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1341925280&sr=1-1)

## Notes for Editors

Contact details:

- Dr John Hart, Director, The National CV Group Email: [john.hart@thenationalcv.org.uk](mailto:john.hart@thenationalcv.org.uk)  
Tel: 0118 9812708

### ***Tysilio Chronicle***

The *Tysilio Chronicle* is available free in its entirety from The National CV website:

<http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk/more.html> [click on More 18]

The renowned archaeologist and historian William Flinders Petrie rated the *Tysilio Chronicle* 'the fullest account we have of early British history' and of 'the highest value'. [Source: Flinders Petrie's essay, *Neglected British History*; More 19, opening paragraph]

### ***Britain's Sporting Heritage is World's Richest***

Britain codified many sports (eg football, cricket) and invented others (eg golf, rugby), with baseball for example being played here long before it was enjoyed across the Atlantic.

Olympics: Four centuries before the coming of the London 2012 Olympics the Cotswold Olympicks was started in 1612 by Robert Dover; the first modern games was held at Much Wenlock, Shropshire in 1850; it was organised by Dr William Penny Brookes (1809-95), founding grandfather of the modern Olympic Games and inspirer of Baron de Coubertin, the father of the Olympic Games, who put on the Athens Olympiad of 1896. After the US and the former Soviet Union, 'Team GB' is the 3rd most successful Summer Games nation (208 gold, 255 silver, 252 bronze, 1896-2008)

Paralympics: these were invented by Dr Ludwig 'Poppa' Guttman (1899-1980) of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, in 1948, and co-hosted there in 1984, with New York; Team GB is the 2nd most successful Paralympian nation, after the US; the earliest known wheelchair athletics event took place at Richmond in 1923

For much more on Britain's illustrious and pioneering sporting history follow this link:

<http://www.thenationalcv.org.uk/sport.html>

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