

St. David's Day,



The National Day of Wales



Where is Wales?

Wales is in north-west Europe and is part of **Great Britain**.

Wales (*Cymru* in Welsh) is a mountainous country on the western side of Great Britain.



Wales is bordered by England to the east, the Bristol Channel to the south, St George's Channel in the west, and the Irish Sea to the north.

Wales is one of the four parts of the United Kingdom (along with England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland).

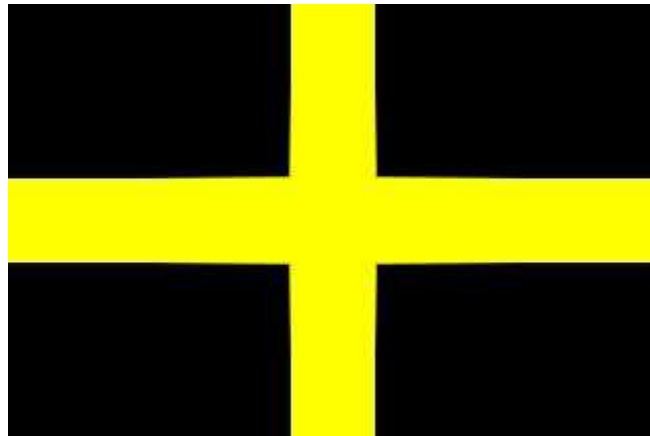
Technically, Wales is a **principality**. This means that it is ruled by a prince. Traditionally the Prince of Wales is the eldest son of the English monarch.

When is St. David's Day?

St David's Day is on 1 March.

St David's Day is celebrated in Wales on 1 March, in honour of St David (*Dewi Sant*), the patron saint of Wales.

What does the flag of St David look like?



This is the flag of St David. It is **not** the flag of Wales

Who was St David?



St David was a Celtic monk, abbot and bishop, who lived in the sixth century. He spread the word of Christianity across Wales.

The most famous story about Saint David tells how he was preaching to a huge crowd and the ground is said to have risen up, so that he was standing on a hill and everyone had a better chance of hearing him.

What are the national emblems of Wales?

The national emblems of Wales are daffodils and leeks.

St David's Day is commemorated by the wearing of daffodils or leeks. Both plants are traditionally regarded as national emblems.

The Leek

There are many explanations of how the leek came to be adopted as the national emblem of Wales. One is that St David advised the Welsh, on the eve of battle with the Saxons, to wear



leeks in their caps to distinguish friend from the enemy. Shakespeare mentions in Henry V, that the Welsh archers wore leeks at the battle of Agincourt in 1415.

What is the National Dress of Wales?



On St David's Day, some children in Wales dress in their national costume, which consists of a tall black hat, white frilled cap and long dress. The national flag of Wales, depicting a fiery red dragon (Y Ddraig Goch) against a green and white background, is also flown.

This is the National Flag of Wales



Flag of Wales

Interesting Facts

- Wales has not been politically independent since 1282, when it was conquered by King Edward I of England.
- Until 1999, Wales was ruled directly from London.
- Wales does not issue its own currency and is not in control of any armed forces. These are the powers of the national government of the UK.
- Cardiff is its capital city.