

Keead blein er dy henney er yn un laa jeig as feed jeh Jerrey Souree va'n bard Bretnagh Ellis Humphrey Evans, ny Hedd Wyn ('shee bannee') myr share shione da'n theihll eh, er ny varroo ayns Cah Phasschendaele ayns Flanders. Shey shiaghteyn lurg e vaase, chossyn Hedd Wyn yn Chaair ayns yn Eisteddfod Ashoonagh ayns Birkenhead son daan er cooish 'Yn Treanagh' va currit stiagh fo'n far-ennym Fleur-de-lis. Three keayrtyyn va'n fockley magh jeant: 'My ta'n bard lesh yn far-ennym Fleur-de-lis kionfenish ayns shoh, lhig da shassoo er e chosh!' roish my lhig yn Ardghruaightagh rish dy row yn bard barriaghtagh er choayl e vioys 'sy chaggey traa gerrit lurg da jerrey y chur er yn daan.

Hie yn Chaair—v'er ve jeant liorish kemmyrkagh ass Flanders gynyss cre cha cooie as veagh shen—er coodaghey lesh aanrit ghoo as veih shen magh ta Eisteddfod 1917 er ve enmyssit Eisteddfod y Chaair Ghoo. V'ee er ny hymmyrkey er traen as er caart gys state-halloomin ayr as moir Hedd Wyn, Yr Ysgwrn, ayns ny sleityn faggys da Trawsfynydd ayns Snowdonia. Er-dyn vlein 1954 ta thie Yr Ysgwrn as y Chaair Ghoo foast ayn er ve foshlit da'n theay fo kiarail mac shayrey Hedd Wyn, Gerald Williams, as dy chooilley nhee 'sy thie faagit myr v'eh tra va'n bard cummal ayn. Ayns 2012 chreck Mainshter Williams yn thie rish Paik Ashoonagh Snowdonia, ta nish goaill kiarail jeh ass lieh yn ashoon.

Va Hedd Wyn credjal ayns shee as cur feoh da'n chaggey. Cha beagh eh er n'gholl stiagh 'syn armee er-be dy begin da'n lught-thie cur fer jeh nyn ghaa vac son sidoor, as ren Ellis shassoo er goaill ynnyd e vraar saa. Hug eh jerrey er yn daan echey cour yn Eisteddfod as eh er e raad gys y chah as cur eh ersooyl 'sy phost. Nish keead blein lurg shen ta Hedd Wyn shassoo son sheeloghe aeg va caillit 'sy chaggey, as ta ymmodde taghyrtyssyn er ve cummit ry-hoi cowraghey keead blein neayr's phaart eh. She cooish daan y Chaair mleeaney 'Treanagh' ny 'Ben Hreanagh', as paart dy fuygh ry-hoi jannoo yn Chaair hene goit voish biljyn darree as unjin ta gaase er thaloo Yr Ysgwrn. Va fillym jeant jeh skeeal Hedd Wyn ayns 1992 as v'eh yn chied fillym Bretnagh va enmyssit son Oscar yn Fillym Share ayns Glare Yoarree.

One hundred years ago on the 31st July the Welsh poet Ellis Humphrey Evans, or Hedd Wyn ('blessed peace') as he is better known, was killed in the Battle of Passchendaele in Flanders. Six weeks later, Hedd Wyn was posthumously awarded the Chair at the National Eisteddfod in Birkenhead for a poem on the subject of 'The Hero' which was submitted under the pseudonym Fleur-de-lis. Three times the announcement was made: 'If the poet bearing the pseudonym Fleur-de-lis is here present, let him stand on his feet!' before the Archdruid revealed that the winning poet had been killed in action not long after he completed the poem.

The Chair—which by fitting coincidence had been made by a refugee from Flanders—was covered in a black shroud and thenceforth the 1917 Eisteddfod has been known as the Eisteddfod of the Black Chair. It was transported by train and by cart to Yr Ysgwrn, Hedd Wyn's parents' mountain farm near Trawsfynydd in Snowdonia. Since 1954 the house of Yr Ysgwrn, with the Black Chair in pride of place, has been open to the public under the care of Hedd Wyn's nephew, Gerald Williams, with everything in the house left as it was when the poet lived there. In 2012 Mr Williams sold the house to Snowdonia National Park, who now preserve it for the nation.

Hedd Wyn was a pacifist who abhorred the war. He would not have enlisted were it not that the family were obliged to send one of their two sons to the army, and Ellis insisted on taking his younger brother's place. He completed his winning poem on his way to the front and sent it off by post. Now, one hundred years later, Hedd Wyn is a symbol of a young generation that was lost in the war, and many events have been held to mark the anniversary. The subject of the poem for the Chair this year is 'Hero' or 'Heroine', and some of the wood for making the Chair itself was taken from oak and ash trees growing at Yr Ysgwrn. The story of Hedd Wyn was told in a 1992 film which became the first Welsh picture to be nominated for Best Foreign Language Film in the Oscars.