

Sporting Heroes 1800- 2021: Mapping Evolutions in Communal Sporting Identity.

Darren Macey

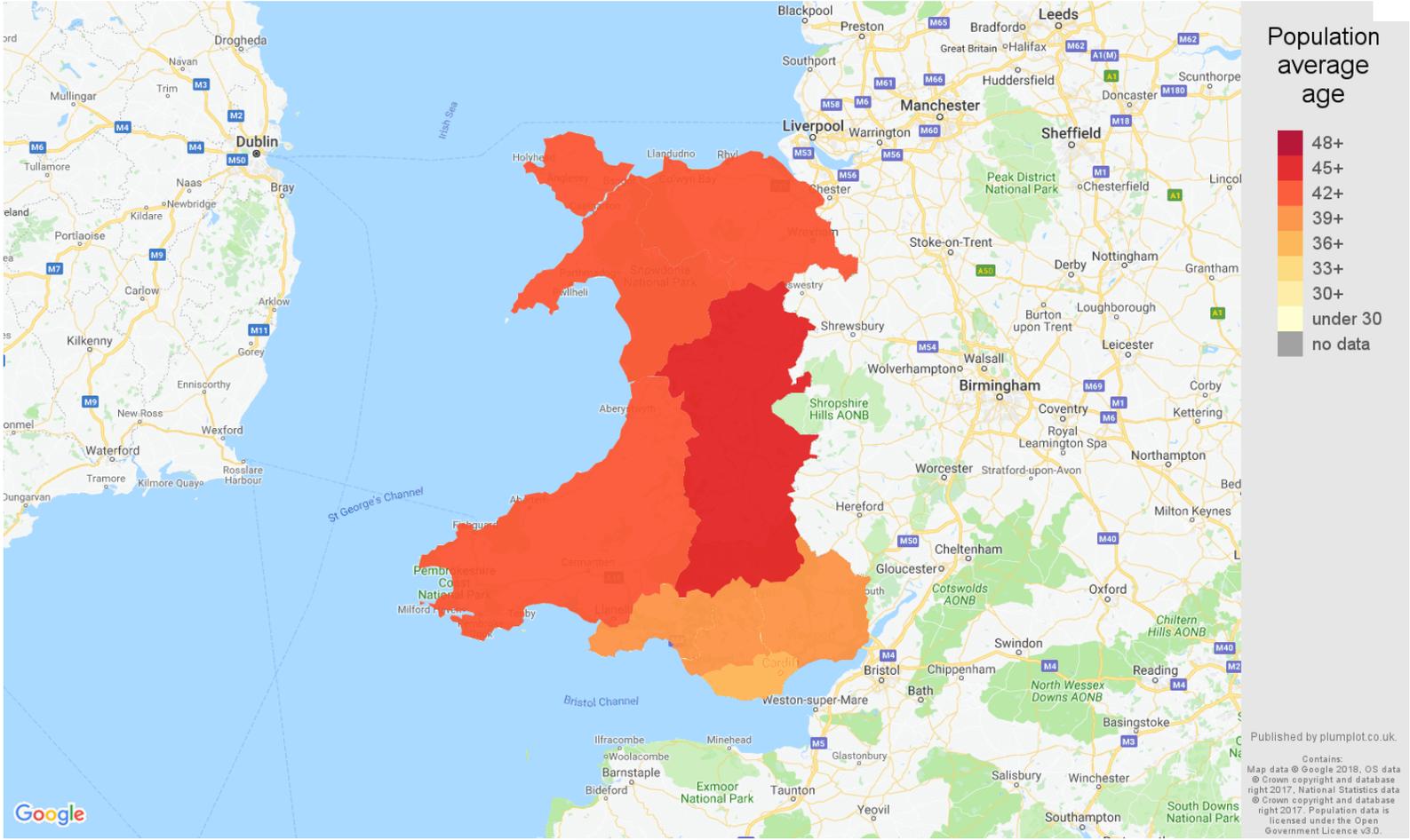
Sporting Heroes Project Officer

Wales population average age map

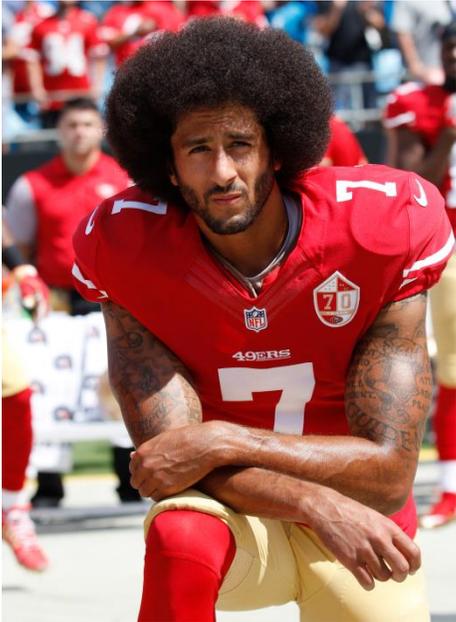


Population average age by LSOA (County) in 2017.

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Key Influencers?



Key Influencers? Freddie Welsh

The Aberdare Leader, 11th September 1909

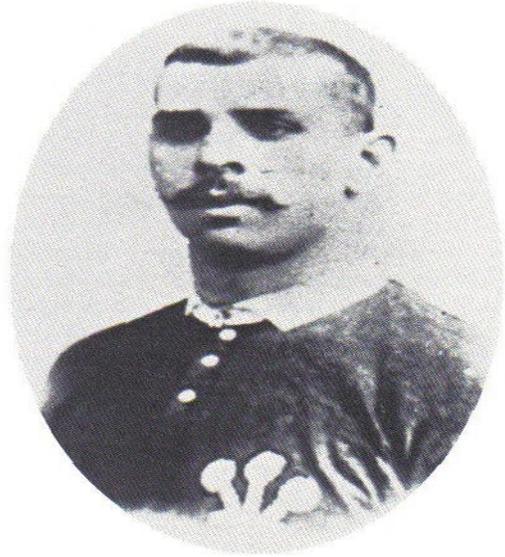


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The great heroes of the people nowadays were the Athletes. A champion walker, runner, or footballer was worshipped by the people. The admiration for Dr. Cock, who was reported to have reached the North Pole, was not to be compared with that of an International footballer who had scored a goal. A man who had been boxing out in America and had made a few thousand pounds, was welcomed home like a prince. Witness the reception given to Welsh at Pontypridd a few months ago. A man who had great lumps of muscle and plenty of brawn, even if he had not a child's brain, was worshipped by the people. Carlyle's "Heroes and Hero Worship" was out-of-date now. The popular heroes were not Shakespeare, Dr. Johnson, Martin Luther, and Bonaparte, but Sullivan, Jeffries, Dorando, and Welsh.



Sporting Heroes 1800-20



Copyright: Photo by John Corry
East Williams, W.A.F.F., J.E. Williams, George Cameron, Dr. Jones, W. Jones, R. E. Jones
C. M. Pritchard, J. J. Hodge, Willie Llewellyn, Gwyn Nicholls, Captain, H. B. Wynick, Cliff Pritchard, A. F. Hooper,
T. J. Hooper, R. Owen
"Gymnasium Bunk." THE WELSH TEAM, which defeated New Zealand Dec. 10th, 1905, by 3 Points to Nil.

Sporting Heroes 1800-2021

- 64 Historic figures

- 252

- 64 contemporary figures

- 252



Methodology

Historical research

- Project Officer
- USW Students
- Local history groups
- Local social media forums

Contemporary research

- Project Officer
- USW Students
- Local sporting clubs
- Local social media forums

Frank Wrentmore



Frank Wrentmore



DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

Two burly looking colliers from Ystrad—Herbert Coleman and Wm. Taylor—were charged with fighting in the street. P.C. Jones, who proved the case, said a large crowd watched the fight, the roadway being completely blocked up and traffic suspended.

Coleman was ordered to pay 10s., and Taylor, who was absent, 15s.

Evan Evans and Francis Wrentmore, an old Penygraig footballer, answered similar charges, and were mulcted in fines of 10s. each.

David Thomas Rees and David Bassett were charged with disorderly behaviour at Williamstown.

P.C. Henry said he had to threaten to lock Rees up before he could get him to go away.

Fined 15s. each.

Frank wrote home to Councillor Mark Harcombe, of Trealaw,

I suppose you want to know how the boys are getting on here. It is very cold and freezing hard. We have had a lot of rain, so it has been very rough in the trenches. We have been up to our knees in water. We had a good skirmish on December 19, when we were successful in taking the trenches of the Germans opposed to us. We , however, had to retire from them because they were full of water so I suppose they were glad to leave them. We lost a lot of men in the skirmish - roughly speaking about six officers and 127 men killed...The Germans acted very well on Christmas Day. They helped us to bring in our dead, and we did the same for them. Some of theirs had been there two months. But under the circumstances we did well. The Germans and ourselves climbed out of the trenches and we shook hands with each other. We stopped firing from five o'clock until midnight, and we visited each other's trenches..."



Sporting Heroes 1800-2019

- Research questions
 - How can we increase public engagement with heritage?
 - How have interests changed over time?
 - How does localised sporting preference a reflection of migration patterns?

Sporting Heroes 1800-2019

- 1. An interpretation board in each facility detailing the examples of past and present sporting 'heroes'.
- 2. An academic monograph detailing evolutions in sporting, social and gender identity from 1800 to the present day.
- 3. A 'lighter' book aimed at encouraging key stage three and above learners to connect history, sport, and identity.
- 4. Oral history recordings.
- 5. Produce an animated history of the evolution of sport in the South Wales Valleys.



