

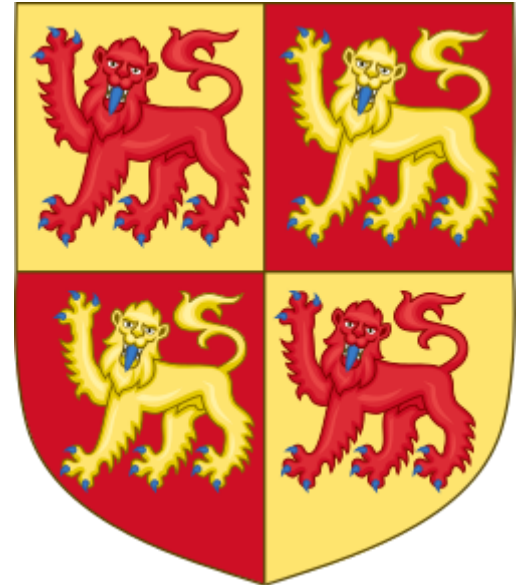
<b>Word/name</b>	<u>Old British</u>
<b>Meaning</b>	Evolved from <i>Lugubelinos</i> , a compound of two <u>Old British</u> names for <u>Celtic gods</u> : <i>Lugus</i> and <i>Belenus</i> .
<b>Region of origin</b>	<u>Wales</u>
<b>Other names</b>	
<b>Related names</b>	<u>numerous</u>

In medieval Latin manuscripts, the form *Lewelinus* was used.<sup>[1]</sup>

A number of other variants have arisen, however, including *Elilevelin*, *Ffuellen*, *Ffuellin*, *Ffellen*, *Flawelling*, *Fleuellen*, *Flewelin*, *Flewellen*, *Flewelling*, *Flewellyn*, *Fluellen*, *Fluellin*, *Fluelling*, *Flwellin*, *Fowellen*, *Fuelling*, *Lawellins*, *Lawellen*, *Leoloni*, *Lewallen*, *Lewlin*, *Lewilin*, *Llallin*, *Lleulin*, *Lleulini*, *Llewen*, *Leuleijon*, *Llewelling*, *Llewellinge*, *Llewellen*, *Llewhellin*, *Llewhelyn*, *Llewillin*, *Lluellen*, *Luellen*, *Thewell*, *Thewelinus*, *Thellyn*, *Thelen*, *Thewelling*, *Thelwelin*, *Thlewelyn*, and *Swellin*.<sup>[1]</sup> Some of these spellings reflect attempts by English and Norman writers to represent the initial consonant:

The sound of *ll* (i.e. 'the unilateral hiss') was much more difficult [to represent in English or French spelling]: *chl*, *thl*, were sometimes used: *fl*, as in *Fluellen*, was also used; and these 'symbols' represent attempts to pronounce *ll*. In some texts no attempt is made to find a way of writing the *ll* sound and it is left as *l*.

— Morgan and Morgan (1985)<sup>[1]</sup>



*Llywelyn the Great's arms became associated with the name for later generations. The arms are described as: Blazoned Quarterly or and gules, four lions passant guardant two and two counterchanged langued and armed Azure.*<sup>[2]</sup>

An alternative strategy was to substitute a similar-sounding name.

Indeed, Anglo-Norman clerks followed a deliberate policy of substituting Anglo-Norman names for Welsh ones, and the name *Lewis* came to be used for *Llywelyn* as early as the 13th century, based on the apparent similarity of the first syllable to the first syllable of the name *Louis* (especially if the first syllable of *Llywelyn* was spelt *Llew*).<sup>[1]</sup> The interchangeability of *Llywelyn* and *Lewis* could go both ways:

Long after the name *Lewis*, as a Christian name and as a surname, had been established in Wales, the awareness of an identity with *Llywelyn* remained, but only amongst the cultured and knowledgeable, like the Morrises of Anglesey. *Lewis Morris* is often called *Llewelyn Ddu* or *Llewellyn Ddu o Fôn*; Williams tells his brother that his baby son's name is *Lewis* [... but later] he refers to the child as '*Llywelyn fach*'. In *ALMA 35* King *Louis* of France is called *Llewelyn Ffreinig*'

— Morgan and Morgan (1985)<sup>[1]</sup>

Other examples include *Lewis Glyn Cothi* who was known as *Llywelyn y Glyn*, and *Llywelyn ap Rhisiart* whose bardic name was *Lewys Morgannwg*.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Derived forms

Three feminine forms have been derived from *Llywelyn* – *Llywela*, *Llewellanne*, *Loella* and *Louella*– as well as two hypocoristic forms, *Llelo* and *Llela* (usually considered male and female, respectively). The hypocoristic forms are always pronounced (and sometimes spelt) with an initial [l], rather than with the alveolar fricative represented in Welsh by *ll*.<sup>[1]</sup>

As a given name, *Llywelyn* is often shortened to *Llew* or *Lyn*.

## Associated surnames

Apart from variants mentioned above, surnames originating from Llywelyn include *Apswellen*, *Bewellin*, *Bewlyn*, *Bewlen*, *Pawelin*, *Weallins*, *Wellings*, *Wellins*, *Welyn*, *Wellyns*, *Wellens*, *Wellence*, *Wellon*, and *Wellys*.<sup>[1]</sup> Surnames beginning *Ap*-, *B*-, or *P*- are based on the Welsh patronymic naming system, where *ap* or *ab* ("son of") was used with the father's first name. As Welsh people came to adopt Anglo-Norman-style surnames, *ap* was either incorporated into the name as in *Apswellen* or *Pawelin*, dropped entirely as in *(Lly)Welyn*, or replaced with an *-s* at the end of the name as in *Wellyns* (see Welsh surnames). In some regions of England the surname *Welling* may derive from an English place-name, but in Welsh Marcher counties its frequency suggests that it can be traced back to *(Lly)welyn*.<sup>[1]</sup> More common than any of these surnames is the surname *Lewis* (see above), with its related variants *Lewes*, *Lewys*, *Lowys*, *Lowis*, *Llewys*, *Llewis*, *Llwys*, *Llewes*.<sup>[1]</sup> A Latinised variant, *Leodovicus*, re-entered English as *Lodwick*, *Ludwick*, *Lotwick*, and *Lodowick*, names that are especially common in South Wales.<sup>[1]</sup>

As the name *Lewis* was in use before the abandonment of the patronomic system in Wales, Morgan and Morgan (1985) note that "it is difficult to understand why *ap Lewis* did not result in a surname *Blewis*."<sup>[1]</sup>

## Notes

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1. Morgan, T. J.; Morgan, Prys (1985). *Welsh Surnames*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press. pp. 147–151. ISBN 0-7083-0880-5.
2. The arms and flag have four squares alternating in red (representing iron, or Mars the god of War) and gold (representing the royalty of the Aberffraw house); with a walking lion ("passant") in each square of the opposite colour; with the lion's paw upraised and with the lion's face viewing the observer ("guardant": guarding against trespass); the tongue is stuck-out ("langued", tauntingly) and blue ("Azur"), and the outstretched claws ("armed") are blue ("Azur", representing sapphires, or the god Jupiter; for primacy in Wales).
3. Llywelyn ab Iorwerth may have been named after his mother's brother, Llywelyn ap Madog of the Mathrafal house of Powys Fadog. Prior to this, the name Llywelyn does not appear in any of the genealogies for the Aberffraw princes of Gwynedd or Dinefwr princes of Deheubarth
4. Morgan and Morgan (1985: p. 147) note that the double *ll* in Llewellyn reflects English spelling conventions, but is misleading with respect to pronunciation, since the initial *ll* is pronounced differently from the later *ll*.

## References

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- Morgan, T. J.; Morgan, Prys (1985). *Welsh Surnames*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press. pp. 147–151. ISBN 0-7083-0880-5.
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