

An Interview with Merlin

So what's it like being a dragon?

I don't know... what's it like to be a human?

No seriously, it must be strange being a dragon, can you breath fire and fly?

I can fly pretty good but I don't really breath fire... I could but it always causes such a mess. Sneezing can be a pain though; I've set fire to three sofas already this year.

Flying must be really cool, how fast can you fly?

That's a good question, I've never really found out... I wouldn't know how to. It's not like I could fly next to a car and ask how fast they are going, I think I'd make them crash!

Maybe we should do it together next time your at Pencnwc?

Sure why not! I might go faster than your car but we can try.

How often do you come to Pencnwc?

As often as I can, I love seeing everyone and doing the Merlin dance with all the kids... and some of the adults. Everyone is so nice and I love having my picture taken with people, makes me feel a little bit famous.

Do you know any famous people?

Umm, well I am related to one. My.... hold on let me get this right... my great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother is the dragon on the Welsh flag. Some people say I look a lot like her... what do you think?

Err, well you're both red but other than that I can't really see it.

Yeah me neither.

Who would you say is your best friend?

Doug

Doug?

Yeah Doug, he's a mole. I've known him for years ever since he had turn-ups in his pants. We live in a cave in Snowdonia together. Well we actually live under mount Snowdon. We mine there for Welsh gold.

Is Welsh gold different to normal gold?

A lot different! Welsh gold is the best in the world! The Queen and all the Royal family only wear Welsh gold because it's the best... and Welsh!

What else do you do apart from mine for gold, anything fun?

I love, love, love inventing things! My favourite invention is my Steamboard!

Steamboard? What's that?

What do you think it is? The clue's its name! It's a steam powered skateboard silly. Its great for zooming around the caves in Snowdon, it gets places really fast. I keep trying to tech Doug how to do it but he's always falling off... its really funny and I always end up in stitches of laughter... but don't tell him I told you about it, he'd give me a slap.

You sound really young... how old are you?

I am young, well young for a dragon; I'm nine hundred and something. I don't really know my exact age because I have about five birthdays a year.

Really? Five real birthdays?

Well no, only one real one but if I say I have five then I get five lots of presents and I get to eat five lots of trifle. Oh, and those bits of pineapple with cheese on little sticks! Mmmm.

Is that your favourite food then?

No my real favourite foods are Wagon Wheels and Pepperami's. I could eat them all day! Sometimes do!

Do all dragons like Pepperami's?

I don't know they might have done but I am the only dragon left.

The only one in the whole world?

I think so. Back when Santa was a boy there used to be hundreds of dragons, but not anymore.

What happened to all the dragons?

Well it was before I was born but I was told the story when I was little. It's a very long story and sad, are you sure you want to know?

Please

Ok, the story goes that the winter of Santa's eighth birthday was the worst winter of all time. There was very little food around and everyone who had not stocked up for the winter in advance was getting very hungry. The wolves (nasty creatures), never prepared for anything and started stealing sheep and chickens from people. As if this was not bad enough, the horrid wolves used to wear shoes shaped like Dragon feet so that the Dragons would get the blame! As Dragons are mostly very shy creatures, people did not know that much about them and thought that they actually did steal the sheep.

So Dragons did not steal any sheep?

Never, and because Dragons don't speak in a language humans can understand they could not tell the people the truth. People started making up horrible stories and gave dragons a bad name. Some of the stories even made it into fairytales but none of them are true. Everyone decided that the Dragons should be tracked down because of what the people thought they had done.

I thought Dragons could not be killed?

Your right Dragons cannot be killed, so people used to fine mother Dragons nests and smash the eggs. Over time there became fewer and fewer dragons until I was the only one left.

That must be lonely?

No, I'm never lonely. I've got lots of friends and Doug! I may not have any real family but friends are the family I get to pick so really I have a huge family!

So are you saying Doug is like a cousin?

More like an annoying baby brother! I play so many tricks on him. Once I took the glass out of his glasses... he could not see a thing, but also he did not want to admit it. He was bumping into everything and couldn't understand it. I laughed so hard stuff came out of my nosis.

Did he get you back?

Yeah big time! A few days later Doug put Marmite in slippers. It felt like walking in mud.

Now you know a lot about Merlin see how much you can remember by answering the following question. Pick the first letter of the right answer and it should give you a secret message. The first question is done for you so you know the letter of the message starts with M ... I'm not going to give you any other clues and no cheating!

1. What kind of animal is Doug?

Elephant

Beaver

Mole

M

2. What does Merlin do with Wagon Wheels?

Use them as frizbees

Eat them

Wear them

3. What colour is Merlin's head?

Blue

Pink

Red

4. What was Merlin doing to make something come out of this nosis?

Eating

Laughing

Walking on his hands

5. What is the fifth letter of Merlin's name?

D

L

I

6. What age is Merlin?

One hundred and something

Nine hundred and something

Four hundred and something

7. What does Merlin do for fun?

Stamp collecting

Knit

Invent things

8. Merlin rides on a

Steam Board

Train

Space Hopper

9. What did Doug put in Merlin's slippers?

Itching powder

Slugs

Marmite

10. When Merlin tries to teach Doug how to Steamboard he

Never falls off?

Always falls off?

Won't get on?

11. Merlin mines for something Welsh. Is it

Coal?

Gold?

Diamonds?

12. Where does Merlin live?

In Snowdonia

Near Snowdonia

Miles away from Snowdonia

13. In what does Merlin live?

Cave

Hotel

In a zoo

M _ _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ _