

## A note on pronunciation

Hild would have encountered at least four languages on a regular basis: Old Irish (Irish), Ancient British (Brythonic), Latin, and Old English (Anglisc).

I won't attempt to codify the pronunciation of Old Irish; it's defeated better than me.

Ancient British is easier. If you think of it in the same terms as modern Welsh you'll get a sense of how to proceed. Every letter is sounded, *c* is pronounced *k*, *dd* as *th*, *ff* as *v*, *rh* as *hr*, and *u*, *g*, and *w* can be...mercurial. So:

*Cian*: KEE-an

*Gwladus*: OO-la-doose

*Arddun*: AR-thun

*Rhroedd*: HRO-eth

*Urien*: IRRI-yen

*Uinniau*: oo-IN-NI-eye (the short form sounds very like *Winny*)

Latin sounds much as it looks with the exception of *v*, which sounds like *w*.

Consonants are hard (*g* as in *go*, and *c* as *k*).

Old English is a particular and deliberate tongue, with every consonant and vowel sounded, r's trilled, and diphthongs accented on the first element. Some simplified pronunciation rules include sounding:

*æ*: like the *a* in *cat*

*sc*: *sh*, as in *ship*

*g*: sometimes *y*, as in *yes*

*ic*: usually as *itch*

*f*: sometimes as *v*, as in *very*

*ð: th, as in then*

So:

*Gipswīc: Yips-witch*

*gesith: yeh-SEETH*

*gemæcce: yeh-MATCH-eh*

*thegn: thayn*

*ætheling: ATH-ell-ing*

*scop: SHOW-p*

*Anglisc: ANG-glish*

*Eanflæd: AY-on-vlad*

*seax: sax*

*Yffi: IFF-y*

*Hereric: herr-EHR-itch*

*Wilnoð: oo-ILL-noth*