

Hunt on to find Twm Siôn Cati's signature

May 27 2009 by [Robin Turner](#), Western Mail

THE hunt is on to track down the signature of Twm Siôn Cati – Wales' answer to Robin Hood.

The 16th century bandit often hid from the Sheriff of Carmarthen on the boulder-strewn slopes of Dinas Hill.

His hideout is widely believed to be a cave located directly above a rocky gorge through which the Twyi flows. Its caves have been etched with names and nicknames over the centuries and these will now be examined to see if they include one by Cati's hand.

His real name is believed to have been Thomas Jones and it is thought he was born in 1530 and died in 1609.

Residents in the nearby village of Rhandirmwyn are about to celebrate the 400th anniversary of his death, staging a festival in his honour between August 21 and 23.

The aim is to raise enough money to build a memorial to the character's memory and to make the cave more accessible to tourists.

Alun Jones, a local historian, said: "It would be an added attraction if Twm Siôn Cati's name, carved by himself on the rock face, were to be found.

"We have already discovered names dating from the beginning of the 19th century, but so far we haven't been able to examine those that are less easy to read and others which are higher up on the rock face.

"We also want to restore Twm Siôn Cati's tarnished character.

"It is true that in his younger days he was a wild and mischievous character, and was even feared for his daring exploits at the expense of the rich and noble. But in later years he turned to poetry and became a well-known heraldic bard."