Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru

- Eisteddfod Genedlaethol General
- Vale of Glamorgan 4-11 August 2012
- Denbighshire and District 3-10 August 2013

NEWSLETTER / JANUARY 2012 #03

Celebrating Santes Dwynwen Day

Last year, as part of the Eisteddfod's hundred and fiftieth anniversary, we appealed for Eisteddfod love stories, and once again this year, we want to hear from anyone with romantic memories about the Barry Eisteddfod back in 1968 or any of the recent Eisteddfodau in Denbighshire.

Send us your memories, either by completing the online form in the Archive section of the website or why not post your story on the Eisteddfod's facebook page?

Many of us will be looking for a special gift before the end of the month as we celebrate the feast of Santes Dwynwen, the patron saint of lovers in Wales, and what better than a beautiful piece of jewellery from Mani Thomas' 'Dathlu' collection to show how much you care?This attractive collection will appeal to anyone searching for – or hoping to receive – a gift on 25 January.Choose the word 'cariad' (love), 'dathlu' (celebrate), 'atgofion' (memories), 'llawenhau' (rejoice), 'hapusrwydd' (happiness) or 'arbennig' (special) – all perfect for celebrating Santes Dwynwen Day.

Visit the Eisteddfod's online shop – www.eisteddfod.org.uk – and remember that the Eisteddfod benefits from every sale, so you can support us while buying your gift.

Happy new year

At last – after all the waiting – 2012 has arrived and the Eisteddfod is fast approaching.

Some closing dates have already passed. Applications for the **Science and Technology Technological Medal** and the **Sir T H Parry Williams Memorial Medal** is at the end of the month.

The **Science and Technology Medal** is an opportunity to honour individuals who have contributed extraordinary in the area of Science and Technology through the Welsh language. The application form is available to download from the Eisteddfod website – www.eisteddfod.org.uk – or you can contact the office for a copy. All completed forms must reach the Organiser by 31 January 2012.

31 January is also the closing date for nominations for the **Sir T H Parry Williams Memorial Medal**, presented annually to an individual who has worked tirelessly to help young people in their local community for many years, making a real difference to their lives.The Medal is presented in memory of Sir T H Parry Williams, a great supporter of the Eisteddfod for many years. If you wish to nominate someone for the Medal, please contact Organiser/Chief Executive, Elwyn Roberts, on 0845 4090 300, or email: elwyn@eisteddfod.org.uk

The two Medals will be presented at special ceremonies on the Maes at Llandow from 4-11 August this year.

Renting stands

The forms for renting space on the Maes will be available on the Eisteddfod website from 1 February onwards.Information on costs for 2012 has already been published on the 2012 website under the heading 'Stallholders'.

The information published is February will also include a reminder of the deadline for the terms and conditions to ensure that you and your organisation make the most of your presence at the National Eisteddfod. Contact anwen@eisteddfod.org.uk to express an interest and receive a reminder, or to discuss the costs of renting a building rather than a stand.

The Arts Council of Wales offer grants up to £5,000 to cover the costs of hiring a stand for any arts-related individuals living in Wales to have a tradestand at the Eisteddfod. You might not have ventured to the Eisteddfod before – this is a perfect opportunity to go for it and maybe get financial help to pay for it!
You might have already had a stand in the Eisteddfod's Trade Fair in previous years but if you are planning some new work or have commissions on the horizon, or you would like some help with marketing or maybe produce a new catalogue, promotion or work – there might be some money available to help you.

The closing date for applications is 27 January. For all the necessary information, contact your local ACW office or visit their website www.artscouncilwales.co.uk

The Eisteddfod plays no part in the decision making process of the Arts Council of Wales and cannot guarantee that you will receive any financial assistance towards renting of the Eisteddfod.

Drama competitions

1 March is the closing date for the open acting in a short play competition, and the preliminary round will be held during April and May, with the best companies appearing in the Theatre as part of the Lunchtime Drama Festival during Eisteddfod week.

The preliminaries will be judged by Corys Edwards and Corys Tudor Williams, and the winners will be presented with one Mair Rowlands and William Thomas.

Remember that all competitions in the Drama competitions must be received by the Organiser by 1 April, so there's a few extra weeks this year for the first time.The adjudicators will then assess the winning compositions and choose the winner of the Drama Medal.The Medal is presented in memory of Dan Wilson, by his wife, Eryth, and the children, Rywel, Sioned and Bethan.

Y Lle Celf

This year's closing date for Y Lle Celf Open Exhibition is 1 March, and according to Eisteddfod Visual Arts Officer, Robyn Tomos, *"This exhibition is one of the pinnacles of our cultural calendar, and an integral part of the warp and weave of Wales' visual arts activity. The annual show at the National Eisteddfod celebrates the best within the visual arts in Wales. Increasingly, the work displayed at the exhibition is considered of international standing and reflects the excellence, innovation and commitment within our artistic community. We invite all eligible artists and makers to submit their work for consideration."*

This year, art critic Declan McGonagle, Director of National Colleges of Art and Design, Dublin, and artists Ceri Thomas, mentor, Sean Edwards and applied artist and curator, Laura Thomas of The Makers Guild of Wales, to select the exhibition.

Declan McGonagle, who helped award the inaugural Artes Mundi international prize at Cardiff in 2004, is fascinated by the links between different kinds of making and the ways in which they are connected. He is faced with the relationship nowadays between tradition, new art and new media.As well as selecting the Open Exhibition, the Panel will also award the Gold Medal for Fine Art, the Gold Medal for Craft and Design and the Young Artist Scholarship for excellence and commitment.

The exhibition is open to any person born in Wales, or of Welsh parents, or any person who has lived or worked in Wales for the three years prior to the 4 August 2012, or any person who is able to speak or write in the Welsh language. The Visual Arts section of the Eisteddfod works in partnership with The Arts Council of Wales.

Welcome to the Vale!

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is happy to extend a very warm welcome to you all to the National Eisteddfod 2012 in Llandow. We look forward to seeing you in August, and we hope you will enjoy all the attractions the Vale has to offer you. The beauty of our beaches and the vibrancy of our villages and towns are all here to be discovered.

We would like to invite you to visit our website to view our Eisteddfod pages and find out further information about accommodation, attractions, travel and leisure facilities. We will be adding information all the time, so if there's anything you'd like to see, do let us know through the feedback form on the website.

Local Events

January

25 January
Heart & Art – Join us to celebrate St Dwynwen Day (the patron saint of Welsh lovers), featuring a special side of original artworks by Welsh artists and celebrities. At Loch Fyne, Cowbridge. 19.30. Tickets £15 to include a two course meal available from Aileen Rice 07764 613057 a.rice@eisteddfod.org.uk. 50c Em Jones 01446 781127 www.eisteddfod.org.uk/events/ or Jayne Lewis 01656 513300 jayne.l@bvcad.net. Organised by Wales St Dinah's Aid Aspect Committee

25 January
Come and celebrate Santes Dwynwen Day or Saint Dwynwen' with supper and entertainment at the Seven Dragons Inn, Llancarfan / Llansanffraid. 19.00. Tickets £10 available from Rhiannon Dentail on 01446 420994

25 January
Santes Dwynwen/Robbie Burns meal at Old White Hart. Further details from Ros Lewis 01446 793530

27 January
Poetry & Songs in the company of Olwen Rees, Johnny Tudor and friends. Llandaff Institute at 20.00 (doors open at 19.15). Ticket £12

28 January
Choral evening with Pendyrys Male Voice Choir. Pendyrys Hall, Pentyrch and more. All Saints Church, Penarth at 19.00. Tickets £15. For further information contact Sion Fox on 07766 429726

February

9 February
Murder Mystery meal at Efbulc 216, Llandaff. Who killed Rywelin Edwards?? Actors from Llandiffod Comp. Details from Gwennol, Leanwen Ottowen 0845 4090 300or Bob 01446 793530

10 February
Rock Swap of All Saints Church Hall. Doors open 7.30. Clothes must be delivered by 14.00 - entry fee £m. For further information contact Colin Evans 07772 045611

10 February
Soles Evening at the Parish Hall, Dinas Powys, 19.30. An evening of soles under the guidance of Phil Hirmles and Mini Soles. Bring your own soles to participate or just enjoy the music and dancing of experts. £10-00 to include light refreshment. Sangria will be available at the bar. Further details available from Julie Beasley 02920 513180 or Jayne Lewis 02920 513300

10 February
Quiz night at the Windsor Pub, Penarth from 19.00. Ticket £18 for a 3 course meal. For further information please contact Brenda Gibbins 07812 026204

14 February
Valentine night at the Rugby Club, Llandaff. Further details from Ros Lewis 01446 793530

25 February
Coffee Morning between 10.30 and midday at the Lesser Hall in Cowbridge. Entrance £2.50 to include tea or coffee and welsh cakes. Various stalls and raffle. Further information from Mary Crandon 01656 861924 or www.wrcadvice.co.uk/wrcad.com

25 February
Congregational Hymn Singing of Simon Chapel Tre-ate at 18.30. Singing conductor Iwan Guy with Meibion y Mochlud Male Voice Choir and Harp solo from Megan Morris. Admission through programme £7 adults and £3 for OAPs and children. Further details available from Mary Crandon 01656 861924 or mary.crandon@btinternet.com

3 February
'Dal dy Dafod' production at Twin cri Nant Theatre, Denbigh. 19.00. Tickets £10 to include a glass of wine

17 February
urban st produces at the Brookhouse MSI. Further details available from Steve & John Davies (01745) 812239

Local Events

26 January
Concert with Ysgol Glan Clwyd pupils (choirs and individuals). Denbigh Town Hall at 19.30. Tickets - £6

Hapnod – the Eisteddfod lottery

Hapnod is the National Eisteddfod's lottery scheme, with a chance for someone to win up to £250 every week. The lottery is a great way to raise money to support the Eisteddfod's work and activities, and taking part is easy.

Go to the website – www.eisteddfod.org.uk – and register to play. You'll find a link to Hapnod on the front page of the website. The computer will choose an unique six digit number and then, there will be included in the draw every Friday – and all for just £1 per week.

The winning numbers are announced online every week, and here in the newsletter. Our hope is to attract 1000 players by the 2012 Eisteddfod, which would allow us to increase the top prize to £500 – every week.

Why not join today – and who knows – you could be a winner. Good luck!

December winners

30 December
£250 – 181843 (Forth Tywyn)
£25 – 138343 (Y Rhôs), 978384 (Llanrug)
£10 – 44051 (Bangor), 528921 (Cowes), 841354 (Denbigh)

23 December
£250 – 488336 (Welshpool)
£25 – 440253 (Denbigh), 381533 (Benllech)
£10 – 556810 (London), 845301 (Llanbadarn), 72656 (Trefeg)

16 December
£250 – 790123 (Degannwy)
£25 – 419748 (Cardiff), 797924 (Sulhny)
£10 – 977527 (Y Barri), 832745 (Cardiff), 584299 (Llandrindod)

9 December
£250 – 294413 (Bangor)
£25 – 773456 (Denbigh), 545238 (Crewe), 416 (Y Fenni/Abergavenny Bridge), 498782 (Denbigh), 202874 (Rhosneigr)

2 December
£250 – 634684 (Mbrtford, Penbydrofiarth)
£25 – 26287 (St Clears), 86107 (Denbigh), £10 – 746049 (Betws y Coed), 583760 (Tegardin), 353576 (Mold)

Wrexham Choir to reform

The Wrexham and District Eisteddfod Choir has decided to reform for a special performance during the North Wales International Music Festival held at St Asaph in September. They will perform work by Karl Jenkins at the prestigious event.

The choir will meet at Capel y Groes, Wrexham on Tuesday 24 January at 19.00. If you think it be great fun to join the choir perform at the festival, do please come along to Tuesday's meeting. All welcome.

Keep in touch

There's plenty of ways to keep in touch with the National Eisteddfod.

You can call us on 0845 4 090 400 if you've got any questions about the festival itself, or send us an email – anwen@eisteddfod.org.uk. You can also keep in touch with us by visiting our website www.eisteddfod.org.uk, twitter.com/eisteddfod – and remember to use the hashtags #eisteddfod2012 or #eisteddfod2013.

www.facebook.com/eisteddfod is the address if you want to keep in touch. Facebook is a great place to chat about the 2012 and 2013 Eisteddfod supporters groups and the group for those interested in Y Lle Celf. So remember, keep in touch with us throughout the year.

If you've received this newsletter through someone else or online, and you'd like to be included on our database, go to our website and register. Alternatively, you can send us an email – anwen@eisteddfod.org.uk

Official caravan site

The application form for the official caravan site is now available to download from the website, with a link from the front page to make it easy for everyone to find it.

We are currently mailing the form to everyone on our database, and a copy should arrive before the end of the month. Organisers are encouraging everyone wishing to apply for a space on the site to return the forms to the Eisteddfod office as soon as possible.

Organiser, Hywel Wyn Edwards, says: *"This year's caravan site is very close to the Maes itself, so it'll be easy for those staying there to reach the Eisteddfod every day. We expect the site to be popular again this year, so everyone should send in their completed forms as soon as possible."*

Performing on the Maes

Are you a member of a dance group or do you know of any dancer who would enjoy performing at this year's Eisteddfod?

We are working on the programme of the Dance Pavilion, so now is the time to get in touch if you'd like to perform during the week. For more information or if you'd like to take part, email anwen@eisteddfod.org.uk or ring the office on 0845 4090 300.

Based in also the contract for make-overs/hairdressing, Sian Davies of the Bonds competition, which is to perform a set of original songs in any style. This year's competition will be held on the Performance Stage on the Maes at the start of the week, with the winning band performing at Maes B on Saturday night. The closing date is 1 May.

Maes Gwyrdd

This year, three acres of the Maes will be transformed to create Maes Gwyrdd, a creative and educational project which includes folk and acoustic music, lectures and ecological debates during the week.

There's also be a chance to enjoy craft stalls and take part in green workshops as well as seeing examples of sustainable and much more.

Maes Gwyrdd has received a grant from the Arts Council of Wales to enable Coed Hills, the Vale of Glamorgan's Rural Artsgreen, to explore the Welsh landscape, its cultural heritage, and a storytelling tent for Welsh myths and legends as part of the project on the Eisteddfod Maes.

The project aims to promote, defend and increase the profile of folk arts in Wales. Coed Hills will be working with Welsh folk artists on their own creative work.For more information go to www.maesgwyrdd.uk or send an email to enthusiiroxing.org.uk

Season tickets

If you're planning on spending the whole week at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, why not buy a season ticket for great savings on the price of daily tickets to the Maes?

Save up to 34% on the price of an adult ticket for the week by buying a season ticket – a saving of £46 – a bargain for anyone who enjoys coming to the Eisteddfod every day.

Two adults with two children aged 13-16 would save £140 (almost 44%) on the price of Maes tickets for the week by buying season tickets.

Buy your season ticket online from 4 February onwards, or order tickets via the Eisteddfod office – 0845 4090 300 – from 1 March onwards, when concert tickets go on sale. Full details online. Click on the Season ticket page on the 2012 Eisteddfod website.

Italian Trophy on show in Barry

With just under 200 days to go before the start of the Eisteddfod, the local council has been presented with the historic 'Italian Trophy' which is now on show at the County Library, Barry.

The trophy was given to the Eisteddfod in 1944 by Italian prisoners of war as a way to thank the people of Wales for the kindness shown to them during their captivity. Handmade by Italian prisoners during World War II and inscribed with the word 'Heddwch' the trophy is held by the council who is hosting the Eisteddfod.

Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Clr Gordon Kemp, said: *"We are delighted to take charge of the Trophy and to have the chance to host the Eisteddfod. Staff across the council are working closely with the National Eisteddfod to ensure that the event is a success. I'm told that tickets will go on sale in March and we are hoping local people will come out in force to support the event."*

Elwyn Roberts, chief executive of the National Eisteddfod, said: *"It is a tradition that at each Eisteddfod the council that will be holding the next Eisteddfod presents the Italian Trophy, which they hold until it passes to the next host council. It is an historic item and I hope visitors to the library will enjoy having the chance to see it."*

General cleaning services

We are looking to appoint a company to undertake cleaning services on the Eisteddfod Maes at Llandow, Vale of Glamorgan.

Companies should only tender if they have the means and commitment to contributing positively to the success of the festival.

A general guide of the services required are included in the full tender document which can be downloaded from the business section of the website, and alternatively tenders should be sent to elwyn@eisteddfod.org.uk by 17.00 Friday 11 February. Full details are in the tender document.

Menter Caerdydd bus service

Menter Caerdydd is considering organising a regular bus service between Cardiff and Llandow during the Eisteddfod, with buses running from early morning until the end of the concert in the Pavilion.

A small fee would be charged for the service. We are keen to ensure that there is a market for this service before organising the buses, and are therefore asking anyone who would use the service to let us know so we can assess its potential success.

This would not bind you into any agreement, but would rather help us to plan ahead.You can respond either through Twitter, facebook or by emailing anwen@eisteddfod.org.uk

Denbighshire and District National Eisteddfod Be part of the Eisteddfod

Amongst the colourful attractions of the Eisteddfod are ceremonies held by the Gorsedd of Bards, both during the Eisteddfod week and during the Proclamation Ceremony, held on 23 June this year in Denbigh.

If you would like to be considered for one of these posts or if you know of someone who would like to be involved, download the form on the 2013 Eisteddfod website under the 'Ceremonies' heading and return to the office by 3 February.Alternatively, email elinor@eisteddfod.org.uk or ring the office on 0845 4090 400.

GORSEDD PAGE BOYS
Two boys aged 10-11 years old during the Eisteddfod. They will attend the presenter of the Mistar Mon on the presentr the Mistar Mon to the Archdruid. All applicants must live in the catchment area.

PRESENTER OF THE SHEAF OF FLOWERS
A Welsh speaking young girl between the age of 16-18 is required to present the Sheaf Flowers to the Archdruid. All applicants must live in the catchment area.

PRESENTER OF THE HORN OF PLENTY
A Welsh speaking another young in the catchment area is required to present the Corn Hidan to the Archdruid of the Gorsedd Ceremonies.

Both the presenter of the sheaf of flowers and the presenter of the horn of plenty must have a clear understanding of the Eisteddfod's core aims, to promote the Welsh language and the culture of Wales.

2013 Prizes

It's not too late to offer a prize at next year's Eisteddfod.There's a few opportunities still available.

It's easy to donate a prize, simply complete the online form on our website, or you can contact the office, either by giving us a ring or email elinor@eisteddfod.org.uk

The response to the appeal for prizes for next year's Eisteddfod has been excellent, and we are indebted to everyone who has already donated a prize, helping us to ensure that the 2013 Eisteddfod will be a great success. Thank you very much.