



Sefydliad Materion Cymreig  
Institute of Welsh Affairs

Newsletter March 2006

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### **Branch activities.**

The IWA has endeavoured over the years to hold events the length and breadth of Wales but we are heavily dependent on our members outside Cardiff to suggest ideas and help with arranging seminars, lunches, dinners and other branch activities at our four branches in north Wales, west Wales, Swansea and Gwent. We also need support from the branches if we are to carry out research into topics particularly of interest to specific parts of Wales. If you would like to be involved with a branch in your area, and in the case of West Wales and Swansea, if you would like to nominate individuals who would be willing to serve on branch committees or even act as chair in these two areas then we would be delighted to hear from you. Branches meet a maximum of six times a year so the time commitment need not be great. You can be sure, however, to be asked for lots of ideas.

### **Creu cyfle.**

On the subject of activities outside Cardiff, the climax of one of the Institute's most successful ever projects was held over one weekend in mid-February at Caernarfon. The IWA working with **European cultural consultants, una**, - and the projects' partners – S4C, Academi, Gwynedd Council, Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias and Dawns i Bawb - put forward the only UK project to be chosen by the EU and the only one across the whole of Europe that focused on the cultural aspects of enlargement.

Nearly four hundred people booked in to see the concert hosted by harpist Catrin Finch that closed the **Creu Cyfle** project, which celebrated in style the enlargement of the EU last year. The event, which took almost a year's hard work to organise, brought together dancers, singers, instrumentalists, and artists at the Galeri, Caernarfon's splendid mixed use building, incorporating a venue for theatre and other performances and offices for small businesses, on Victoria Quay. The Sunday evening audience heard and saw music from Estonia and Slovakia, dance from Latvia, an orchestra bringing together individuals of all abilities and, perhaps the piece de resistance, a rendering of Baltic Sea Freedom Song by local schoolchildren, accompanied by an orchestra of 12 harps, flautist and silver ensemble.

The following day nearly 200 people were present to hear leading speakers from the EU headquarters in Brussels and arts and cultural practitioners from Wales and the rest of Europe discuss the role cultural projects could play in economic regeneration, and to participate in a series of workshops. The feedback we received was universally positive with everyone agreeing the occasion had been very useful and informative.

### **New Publications**

Two new publications from the Institute were launched at the Caernarfon event. Osi Rhys Osmond's *Carboniferous Collision* recounts the epiphany experienced by the artist Josef Herman in Ystradgynlais in his long journey from persecution as a Jew in his native Poland. This is where he decided to settle, inspired by the images he saw around him of working class South Wales. *Creative Industries in Wales, Potentials and Pitfalls* is an examination by Professor Phil Cooke of Cardiff University of the role of creative industries in the economic development of contemporary societies. Both books are available from the IWA at £10 (£5 to members).

### **Future Events**

We have a number of interesting events planned for the next few months and would be delighted to see members at these. On March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Thistle Hotel in Cardiff we will be holding a **one-day conference to launch our report into Integrated Centres in Wales**. This is the culmination of a yearlong study into this specifically Welsh approach to early years education that seeks to involve parents and indeed the community as a whole. The report evaluates the approach adopted by local authorities across Wales and contains the results of feedback from parents, teachers and others involved in several of the centres. Those unable to get to the event can purchase the report from the IWA's offices. Please email us at [wales@iwa.org.uk](mailto:wales@iwa.org.uk) or phone 029 2066 6606.

Later in the same week, on March 16, **Welsh sporting legend Tony Lewis** will be speaking at a Gwent branch dinner at the University of Newport's Caerleon campus on a theme no doubt dear to his heart as a former Glamorgan and England cricket captain and current chairman of Welsh National Opera - **the role of music and sport as economic drivers**. We still have some tickets available for this event so please give us a call if you would like to be there for what is certain to be an interesting and entertaining evening.

The following week on March 23<sup>rd</sup> **Patrick Lewis**, recently appointed **director of the Welsh Assembly Government's Heads of the Valleys** programme, will be speaking to a lunch in Cardiff at the Thistle Hotel on the way he will be approaching his task of trying to co-ordinate **efforts to ensure the Valleys share in growing prosperity.**

### **Myths, Memories and Futures**

A reminder too about the series of lectures we are holding jointly with the **National Museum and National Library** to celebrate the **centenary** of these two institutions. In January Dr. Prys Morgan spoke in Aberystwyth on the history leading up to the creation of both and on Thursday March 23 **Dr. Rhiannon Mason** will be talking about their role in representing the nation at a lecture in the Museum in Cardiff. On May 12 **Professor Declan McGonagle** from the University of Ulster will talk about a role for art and institutions within society in Aberystwyth and on July 17<sup>th</sup> it will be the turn of Cardiff to host **Dr. Gaynor Kavanagh** on Museums in a Broken World. The lectures all start at 6 for 6.30 pm and entry is free. For further details and for tickets contact the IWA.

### **Research**

One of the most ambitious projects ever tackled by the IWA, a major report on **affordable housing**, will reach its culmination on March 16<sup>th</sup> when the report is presented to an audience of senior housing experts at **the annual Chartered Institute of Housing Conference on the Future of Social Housing in Cardiff's City Hall.** The research, which was funded jointly by the Principality Building Society and the Welsh Assembly Government, contains a number of key recommendations for dealing with this important issue and is available for purchase from the IWA.

### **E-mail addresses**

As you will know as a member, the IWA keeps regularly in touch with its members through mailshots announcing our activities and we will, of course, be continuing to do so. However, we would like where possible to make **greater use of e-mail** as a way of reducing our costs. We do have a large number of e-mail addresses in our files but as we are sure you will realise they are difficult to keep up-to-date as people move from job to job or change their internet service providers. If you would be willing to receive information by e-mail and are not already doing so, or if you have changed your e-mail address, we would be most grateful to receive your details. Just send an e-mail to [wales@iwa.org.uk](mailto:wales@iwa.org.uk) and put "e-mail address" in the subject line.