



26 Mai 2009

## **DATGANIAD I'R WASG**

### **Pen-blwydd Hapus Eisteddfod yr Urdd yn 80 oed**

Heddiw am 1:30yh, cynhelir parti pen-blwydd arbennig yn fflat Mistar Urdd ar faes Eisteddfod yr Urdd Bae Caerdydd i ddathlu pen-blwydd yr Eisteddfod yn 80 oed.

Roedd Eisteddfod gyntaf y mudiad yn un cwbl wahanol i'r digwyddiad mawreddog rydym yn gyfarwydd â hi. Wedi ei sefydlu ym 1929 yng Nghorwen, cynhaliwyd yr Eisteddfod am ddau ddiwrnod yn unig ddiwedd mis Mai. Prif ddigwyddiadau'r Wyl oedd cynnal gorymdaith fawr a seremoni hanesyddol ym Mhafiliwn Corwen gyda baneri, ac urddo tair brenhines yr Eisteddfod ar orseddau unigryw.

Mae un gŵr yn cofio'r Eisteddfod gyntaf honno, a llawer o'r eisteddfodau cynnar hynny, Emrys Jones, 88 oed o Langwm ger Corwen: "Cofiwch chi, yn y blynyddoedd cynnar yna, nid y cystadlu oedd yn bwysig, ond cael cymdeithasu a sgwrsio â ffrindiau a chyfoedion. Roedd hi'n beth mor fawr teithio bryd hynny, a chael gweld rhannau o Gymru nad oedd neb ohonom erioed wedi clywed amdanynt heb sôn am eu gweld o'r blaen!"

Digwyddiadau eraill o bwys yn 1929, pan sefydlwyd Eisteddfod yr Urdd:

- ganwyd seren rygbi Cymru, Carwyn James yng Nghefnethin, Llanelli
- enillodd yr awdur a'r bardd, Caradog Pritchard y goron dair gwaith yn olynol, y tro olaf yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn Lerpwl
- cynhaliwyd Gwobrau'r Academi am ffilm am y tro cyntaf yn Los Angeles
- bu farw'r gramadegydd a'r bardd Syr John Morris Jones, yn 64 oed
- ganwyd y Gweinidog, actifydd ac arweinydd anufudd-dod sifil di-drais yr Unol Daleithiau, Martin Luther King
- darlledodd y BBC drosglwyddiad teledu am y tro cyntaf
- gyda'r llysenw 'Black Tuesday', chwalodd marchnad stoc Wall Street, Unol Daleithiau'r Amerig, y cwmp gwaethaf yn hanes y farchnad stoc

Nôl yn y parti, bydd plant a phobl ifanc yn ymuno â Cadi a Dai, arweinwyr y jambori newydd, 'Rimbojam' i ganu pen-blwydd hapus ac i ddathlu'r 80fed pen-blwydd. Bydd



One man who remembers that first Eisteddfod, and many of the other early Urdd festivals, is 88 year old Emrys Jones, of Llangwm near Corwen: “You must remember, in those early years, the competing wasn’t as important as it is today, it was the meeting and greeting of friends, catching up with peers, and the general socialising that was the important element of the Eisteddfod. Travelling was such a big deal in those days, we saw parts of Wales we hadn’t even heard of, let alone seen!”

Other notable events during the first year of the Urdd National Eisteddfod in 1929 include:

- the birth of Welsh rugby star, Carwyn James at Cefneithin, Llanelli
- Welsh author and bard, Caradog Pritchard wins the crown at the National Eisteddfod in Liverpool for the third time consecutively
- the first Academy Awards for film were held in Los Angeles
- the death of Welsh grammarian and poet Sir John Morris Jones, aged 64
- the birth of clergyman, activist and leader of the African American civil rights movement, Martin Luther King
- the BBC broadcast a television transmission for the first time.
- nicknamed Black Tuesday, The Wall Street Crash of this year was the most devastating stock market crash in the history of the United States

Back at the party, youngsters will join Cadi and Dai, the new jambori leaders in a special ‘Rimbojam’ session to sing happy birthday and celebrate the special 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party. S4C’s *Planed Plant* and *Cyw* presenters will be on hand to assist with the celebration, and a few of TV’s *Cyw* characters plus Kariad y Clown will drop in for a piece of the birthday cake.

Youngsters at the party will be given the opportunity to sign a card for the Eisteddfod to commemorate the special day.

**Efa Gruffudd Jones**, Urdd Gobaith Cymru’s Chief Executive said: “This is a special year for the Urdd National Eisteddfod, and it is fitting that we are able to celebrate it at the Welsh capital in Cardiff. The Eisteddfod is a very different event to that first festival 80 years ago. The festival is an evolving event, which now attracts 15,000 competitors and 100,000 visitors in a celebration of the Welsh language, culture and a wealth of young talent we have in Wales today.”

#### **Ends**

Further information: Siân Eleri Davies 07976 330360 or Manon Llwyd 07976 330361

#### **Editor’s Note:**

- Urdd Gobaith Cymru is Wales’ leading youth organisation.

- The Urdd has given children and young people exciting opportunities for over 80 years.
- The Urdd National Eisteddfod is one of the largest cultural youth festival in Europe.
- 40,000 young people have competed in various competitions including recitation, choral singing, dance, arts and craft, composition and poetry.
- The Eisteddfod attracts over 100,000 visitors, 15,000 competitors and almost a million television viewers.
- Welsh stars such as Bryn Terfel, Ioan Gruffudd, Cerys Matthews, Aled Jones, Shân Cothi and Daniel Evans all gained valuable performing experience on the Urdd stage.
- The Eisteddfod offers wall to wall competitions between 11.00am - 5.00pm and evening competitions on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- The Eisteddfod will be held in the grounds of Llanerchaeron in Ceredigion in 2010 and in Swansea in 2011.