

Cambrian News, Eisteddfod yr Urdd Ceredigion 2010 column

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On Home Turf

The 2010 Eisteddfod in Ceredigion will be warmly welcomed by music teacher Rhiannon Lewis, from Cwmann. For one reason she will be able to sleep in her own bed throughout Whitsun week in May next year. Rhiannon in numerous official roles for Urdd Gobaith Cymru, including former Chair and Vice Chair, has travelled the length and breadth of Wales promoting and enjoying the Urdd National Eisteddfod.

“I dislike the task of packing and unpacking in preparation for the Urdd National Eisteddfod each May. It will be a real treat to be on home turf next year, and a great honour for me in my role as Vice Chair of the Ceredigion event,” explains Rhiannon Lewis.

Rhiannon is firmly rooted to the area, and her love of music and performing started at a young age. Competing at the Urdd Eisteddfod on a local level, and enjoying the activities of the Adran Bentref at Llanbed during her younger years, she pays homage to the local Leaders who willingly gave so much time to the young people of the area.

Rhiannon herself has great affection for young people, placing her in a great position as Assistant Head of Ysgol Uwchradd Tregaron. She is also Head of the Music department at the school and enjoys seeing her pupils flourish in the practical elements of her lessons.

“We offer an array of different musical experiences in music lessons these days,” she explains. “Beat boxing, rapping and disc jockeying are just some of the elements young people are now enjoying at school.”

Her musical interests also see her taking on the role of Music Chair of the Ceredigion 2010 Eisteddfod, and for the first time in the Urdd National Eisteddfod's history, a national competition using new forms of music, such as beat boxing, will be set up.

Fundraising activities, supporting local appeal committees, preparing musical set pieces for the competitions and encouraging youngsters to compete in 2010 are all in the pipeline for Rhiannon during the coming months. In her free time, tutoring young singers for this year's Urdd National Eisteddfod at Cardiff also continues, as she gives back to the youngsters at Adran Bentref Llanbed, the experiences she gained as a youngster. She also tutors school choirs and parties at Ysgol Tregaron in preparation for the Urdd's local and county Eisteddfodau at Ceredigion in the coming weeks.

Back to Ceredigion 2010, Rhiannon will indeed be a busy lady, and with Ceredigion also feature county of the Royal Welsh Show next year, Rhiannon is happy to pay homage to her agricultural background and feels confident that the people of Ceredigion will dig deep for both worthy causes in preparation for two of Wales' top events.