

Proclamation Week – A Resounding Success!

You will, no doubt, have noticed an abundance of activity across the county during the end of April, as the Urdd National Eisteddfod Ceredigion 2010 was announced. By now, the organisers' sore feet, throats and heads should be better, since all the walking, singing, dancing and talking took its toll. The radio, TV and newspaper coverage during the week, meant that the whole of Wales caught a glimpse of the warm welcome which will envelop them as they arrive at Ceredigion in May 2010.

The walkers who followed two specific paths, one to the north of the county, the other to the south of the county all met at Llangrannog on the last day, after a fantastic week following Ceredigion's coastal paths in glorious sunshine.

Dewi Hughes, the co-ordinator of the walk said: "We had a great week, and some great support, with over 50 people participating along the way. The welcome we had at some of the schools during the week was fantastic, and their encouragement and excitement at the forthcoming Eisteddfod was clear to see. A big thank you goes to the Leaders of the groups for ensuring everyone arrived safely at Llangrannog to a huge welcome from the jambori youngsters!"

That musical extravaganza, the jambori, so well known to celebrate Urdd activities was a resounding success, both at the beginning and end of the week. It culminated in 2500 children participating and enjoying the singing sessions as part of the proclamation. Gwenda Owen a'r Band encouraged some great singing from the stage, and the specially commissioned song written by Gwenda herself 'Ceredigion 2010' caught the children's minds and attention. Assisting Mistar Urdd on the day at Llangrannog was S4C Pentre Bach's very own Coblyn and Bili Bom Bom, much to the children's surprise!

Deian Creunant, Executive Committee Chair of Ceredigion's Urdd Eisteddfod said: "The children really enjoyed the jambori sessions, and threw themselves into the celebrations. With great weather a part of the mix, it ensured a resounding success to a great proclamation week, one I'm sure that will stay in the youngsters' memories for a long time to come. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisers, supporters and partners of Ceredigion 2010 Urdd

Eisteddfod for making the week a success. Most important was that children and young people were at the heart of it. It bodes well for a fantastic festival in a year's time."

Another resounding success was the young people's gig at Pafiliwn Bont during the last evening of the week. With over 300 youngsters attending the gig, and special DJs, BBC Radio Cymru's very own Magi Dodd and Glyn Wise at the helm, it was indeed a night to remember. North Walians Gwibdaith Hen Frân headlined the evening in their own unique style, with Yr Ods, winners of BBC C2's Rap Awards 2009, supporting. Local Aberaeron band, Fushanti was a great hit, singing well known cover versions that swooned the young crowd.

Anwen Eleri, Urdd Gobaith Cymru Ceredigion officer continued: "We had great support from sponsors and organisations for the gig, and I would, on behalf of the Youth Committee, like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ceredigion YFC, Pafiliwn Bont, Ceredigion County Council and Communities First. The profit will be split between the Eisteddfod and YFC's appeal fund for the Royal Welsh Show."

A huge congratulations goes to the lucky raffle winners that were randomly chosen at the end of the proclamation week. Amanda Jones from Llanilar, Aberystwyth won the first prize of £500, Ray Darby from Y Borth won the second prize of £250, and Geraint Morgan from Bwlchllan won the £100 – don't spend it all at once!

Coming Up: Thursday 14 May at 6:00pm at the National Library of Wales a special evening looking back at the 40 years since the Urdd National Eisteddfod was held at Aberystwyth through the eyes of the then Chair, Peter Hughes Griffiths, reminding us of the troubled years following the investiture of the Prince of Wales and its impact on the chaired bard's work at the Eisteddfod in 1969. The evening is chaired by Professor Elan Closs Stephens, with tickets (including wine and canapés) priced at £10. Call 01970 626802 or 07855 276740 to book.