

Cambrian News, Eisteddfod yr Urdd Ceredigion 2010 column

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## **Steddfod Street Parties!**

Aberystwyth's Appeal Committee has come up with a novel way of fundraising for the Urdd National Eisteddfod at Ceredigion 2010, by organising street parties! Not only is it a great way to fundraise for the event, but it's also a fantastic way to raise the profile of the up-coming Welsh cultural festival due in May 2010!

Elwyn Jones, a member of the committee explained more: "We've had many different parties at people's homes across the town during the last few months, and one in particular sticks in my mind. We had been invited to a lady's house at Penparcau for an afternoon of cheese and wine. Neighbours and friends had all congregated, and people from the whole estate had come across. One English family who, days earlier, had moved to the area arrived at the house. They knew no one at the party when they arrived, but before leaving that afternoon they had met a whole host of people all welcoming them to the area and making them feel at home. They also got to know quite a bit about Welsh culture, and of course, Ceredigion's Urdd National Eisteddfod at Llanerchaeron next year!"

Elwyn continued: "We've had coffee mornings, cheese and wine evenings, an afternoon of strawberry tea, but we're yet to have an official, all singing and dancing street party. I hear there is a couple in the pipeline, so let's hope for some good weather before the end of the summer so we can bring lots more people together. Manon, my wife, and I will be arranging a gathering of sorts before the end of August, so we'll have some arranging to do in the next few weeks."

The committee feel that raising the profile of the national event is as important as raising the funds to host the Eisteddfod. And enjoying the activities themselves, meeting and greeting friends and family all makes for a great recipe. The committee has asked local organisations within the town to consider arranging an event, be it a party or any other fundraising activity. Local schools, Merched y Wawr club, Rotary club and others have been approached to assist the team to reach the financial target set for the town. As the old saying says, more hands make light work!

There is great anticipation for the Eisteddfod at Ceredigion and none more so than in Aberystwyth itself. With such an evolving population, due to the student element, it was crucial to involve them in some of the activities.

“It’s great to see so much support in the town, and the students have also played their part. A few weeks before the Urdd National Eisteddfod at Cardiff Bay in May, they arranged a concert in the town to showcase the soloists, groups and choirs that were competing at the event. It was a great evening. Everyone’s really pulling together and working hard. The Eisteddfod will soon be upon us!” Elwyn concluded.

Another fundraising event will take place this evening (Wednesday 12 August) at Cardigan, a vehicle Treasure Hunt. The first car will begin promptly from Parc y Ffair, Cardigan at 6:00pm, with a fee of £3 for adults and £1.50 for children. Cash prizes available! Food can be ordered this evening, ready for you following the event. Good luck to everyone!