

Date: 26 February 2003
Time: 9.00a.m – 12.30p.m
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales

Scoping for the Anglo Welsh Culture Review: Background briefing on English medium Welsh Literature; English medium Welsh drama (theatre); English medium Welsh drama (television and film); and dance.

Coverage

This paper provides background information on selected bodies working in the field of English medium, literature, drama, television, film and dance in Wales. It is not a comprehensive list of all the organisations in each field.

1. English medium Welsh Literature

1.1 Key organisations

1.1.1 Welsh Books Council

The Welsh Books Council is a national body, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, which provides a focus for the publishing industry in Wales. It provides a number of specialist services (in the fields of editing, design, marketing and distribution) with a view to improving standards of book production and publication in both Welsh and English. The Books Council is also committed to promoting reading and literacy in Wales.

The Books Council has a staff of 44.5 (FTEs), most of whom work in a number of specialist Departments which provide services to the book trade. The largest Department is the Distribution Centre which provides a wholesale distribution service to publishers and booksellers. Unlike the rest of the Council's work, this Centre, which has an annual turnover of £3.75 million gross (£2.5 million net), is self-supporting and does not receive any subsidy from the public purse. The Books Council also has a Publishing Grants Department, which is responsible for distributing grants towards the cost of publishing Welsh-language books and magazines.

1.1.2 Yr Academi Gymreig - The Welsh Academy

Yr Academi Gymreig - The Welsh Academy is the national society that exists to promote the writers and the literatures of Wales. The Academi represents the interests of Welsh writers (poets, novelists, fictioneers, storytellers, dramatists, critics) and Welsh writing both inside Wales and beyond. It works in partnership with Ty Newydd, the Cricieth-based residential writers' centre. In 1998 the Society won the franchise from the Arts Council of Wales to establish a Welsh National Literature Promotion Agency.

Further information is available from the Academi website:

www.academi.org

1.2 Examples of English medium Welsh magazines

◆ ***New Welsh Review***

The *New Welsh Review* is Wales' leading literary quarterly magazine in the English Language. Founded in 1988 as a successor magazine to The Welsh Review (1939-1948) and Dock Leaves/ Anglo-Welsh Review 1949-1987. It is a magazine where the best of Welsh writing in English, past and present is celebrated, discussed or debated. The *New Welsh Review* is sponsored by the University of Glamorgan, the Arts Council for Wales, the Welsh Academy and the Association for Welsh Writing in English.

◆ ***Planet – The Welsh Internationalist***

Planet is a bi-monthly magazine covering the arts, culture and politics in Wales and beyond. In addition to features on and interviews with contemporary Welsh artists and writers, it includes political analysis, both of Welsh affairs and international issues. Several poems and one short story are published in every issue of the magazine.

Further information is available from their website at:

<http://www.planetmagazine.org.uk/html/splash.htm>

1.3 Examples of Welsh publishers

◆ **University of Wales Press**

The University of Wales Press was established in 1922 and is wholly owned by the University of Wales, one of the largest universities in Britain. The Press now concentrates on four major subject areas: History; Political philosophy and religious studies; European studies; Welsh and Celtic studies.

◆ **Honno Welsh Women's Press**

Honno Welsh Women's Press was set up in 1986 by a group of women who felt strongly that women in Wales needed wider opportunities to see their writing in print and to become involved in the publishing process. Their aim is to publish books by, and for, the women of Wales, and their brief encompasses fiction, poetry, children's books, auto-biographical writing and reprints of classic titles in English and Welsh.

1.4 Earlier recommendations

A Culture in Common (a report of the Post-16 Education and Training committee) said that there was “an undoubted perception amongst the literary community that they are often marginalised and often forgotten”. The report then recommended:

- ◆ That active promotion and greater acknowledgement – including financial reward – should be afforded to writers;

- ◆ That the recognition and status of Anglo-Welsh writers be increased in the national curriculum,
- ◆ That a co-ordinated strategy be developed in harness with the publishing industry to provide more publication opportunities for Welsh writers.

In relation to writing, the Welsh Assembly Government's *Creative Future: A Culture Strategy for Wales* identified the following general objectives:

- ◆ It was necessary to increase considerably the size and number of writers' bursaries, writer in residence schemes and other financial incentives;
- ◆ Improve the marketing and distribution at home and abroad of books and magazines from and about Wales, including increased use of online marketing;
- ◆ Take advantage of new modes of electronic publishing;
- ◆ Seek ways to improve the profitability of independent bookshops and increase the stock of books from Wales in High Street booksellers;
- ◆ To increase the number of books from Wales purchased by Libraries; and
- ◆ Make more books from Wales accessible in alternative formats such as large print editions etc.

Specific actions recommended in *Creative Future – A Culture Strategy for Wales* included:

- ◆ 3.9 To extend access to writers in residency programme (Lead Body: Arts Council for Wales);
- ◆ 3.10 To convene a Task and Finish group to review support mechanisms for the publishing industry in Wales with a view to improving the marketing and distribution of books and other publications from and about Wales at home and abroad and to make recommendations (Lead body Welsh Books Council);
- ◆ 6.18 To commission research into modes of electronic publishing and use of IT in the books trade and to make recommendations for the book trade in Wales (Lead body: Welsh Books Council);
- ◆ 8.19 To develop web-based system for marketing books and placing reviews (Lead body Welsh Books Council);
- ◆ 8.20 To promote books from Wales more widely on the international arena (Lead Body; Welsh Books Council).

2. English medium Welsh drama (theatre)

2.1 The Drama Association of Wales

The Drama Association of Wales, founded in 1934, offers a wide and varied range of services to community drama in Wales. For example, the Association has the largest specialist drama lending library in the world, offers training courses in all aspects of theatre and conducts New Writing workshops.

The Association's aim is to increase opportunities for people in the community to be creatively involved in drama which is fun and of a high standard.

Further information is available from their web-site:

<http://www.amdram.co.uk/daw1.htm>

2.2 The Wales Association for the Performing Arts

The Wales Association for the Performing Arts (WAPA) is the umbrella body for the professional performing arts organisations in Wales, representing theatre, opera and dance. Its main role is to promote the professional performing arts by raising the profile of the sector in as many ways as possible.

The Association has also developed training courses specifically for their membership in areas such as Health and Safety, First Aid, Finance and Stress Management.

Further information is available from their website at:

<http://www.waparts.f9.co.uk/b>

2.3 Theatres

There are approximately 74 production companies working in Wales including dance, drama and other performing arts companies. They range in size from the very large like the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff to very small-scale 'project funded' experimental companies.

There are approximately 73 venues at which theatre performances can take place. These are situated all across Wales and most cater for English and Welsh productions.

For further information on the various theatres in Wales:

<http://www.theatre-wales.co.uk/index.asp>

2.4 Examples of Welsh theatres

◆ The Sherman Theatre

The Sherman Theatre is a producing theatre, a touring company, a youth theatre and a receiving venue. It also has a youth forum which helps young people to learn about theatre through assisting them with their own productions and conducting workshops.

Further information is available from their website at:

<http://www.shermantheatre.co.uk/index.cfm?intro=0>

◆ Clwyd Theatr Cymru and Clwyd Theatr Cymru for Young People

Clwyd Theatr Cymru operates on an English language basis only. It was established in its current form in 1976 as a professional theatre company complemented by a programme of visiting performance activity (drama, dance, music and opera), film and exhibitions. The theatre also participates in a number of community outreach projects.

Clwyd Theatr Cymru for Young people specialises in encouraging and promoting youth in theatre through the production of challenging and innovative theatre projects, and workshops. Its objective is to bring young people into the theatre rather than touring

schools. The youth theatre works on a bi-lingual basis (English and Welsh), however it also has particular interests in working with minority language organisations.

Further information is available from their website at:

www.clwyd-theatr-cymru.co.uk

2.5 Earlier recommendations

Regarding the theatre, *A Culture in Common* recommended:

- ◆ That the priority for theatre in the coming years should be to nurture and strengthen grass roots activity across Wales so that it can achieve a tradition of excellence.

Creative Future: A Culture Strategy for Wales identified the following specific actions in relation to the theatre:

- ◆ 2.11 To consider the outcome of the audit of Theatre in Education and to propose new stretching targets for quality and attendance (Lead body: Arts Council for Wales);
- ◆ 2.14 To ensure a co-ordinated approach to national youth theatre in Wales (Lead body: Assembly);
- ◆ 3.1 To develop a new drama strategy in the context of the 5 year arts development plan with proposals for widespread access to mainstream professional theatre in both Welsh and English, as well as the development of other forms of theatrical expression and grass roots activity (Lead body: Arts Council for Wales).

3. English medium Welsh drama (television)

3.1 National Television

3.1.1 BBC Wales

BBC Wales makes 19 hours of English language television programmes a week tailored to a Welsh audience, shown on BBC ONE Wales and BBC TWO Wales, and also 10 hours a week of Welsh language television programmes shown on S4C. For digital viewers there are extra programmes in English on BBC 2W. BBC Wales also runs comprehensive online services in both English and Welsh. On radio, listeners can hear 19 hours of output in English on Radio Wales every day and also 20 hours each day in Welsh on Radio Cymru. BBC Wales also contributes significantly to the BBC's network television and radio output.

BBC Wales' headquarters are in the Llandaff area of Cardiff and there are studios and offices in Bangor, Wrexham, Aberystwyth and Carmarthen. Reporters and other staff are also based in various other locations around Wales. BBC Wales also operates several community-based projects called 'Where i Live'. For information about these, visit www.bbc.co.uk/wales/whereilive

As the national public service broadcaster for Wales, BBC Wales' programmes aim to reflect the rich diversity of Wales and its people. BBC ONE Wales and BBC TWO Wales schedules are designed with the Welsh audience in mind, and this means that the schedule will occasionally vary from timings in other parts of the UK. For digital viewers, BBC 2W offers additional BBC Wales programmes within a digital zone of programming on weeknights between 8.30 - 10.30pm.

In addition to sports coverage, which attracts a substantial audience in Wales, BBC Wales' output includes news and current affairs, music, drama, comedy, entertainment and the arts.

BBC Wales also provides coverage of the Assembly on the digital channel S4C2 (viewers can choose whether they want to follow proceedings in English or Welsh).

The BBC is funded by money raised through the television licence fee.

The Broadcasting Council for Wales assists the Board of Governors in its overview of the BBC by representing the views of viewers and listeners in Wales. The Council is chaired by the National Governor who sits on the BBC Board of Governors. The responsibilities of the Broadcasting Council are set out in the BBC's Charter and include establishing and monitoring public opinion about programmes and services through audience research, advising the BBC on how the objectives reflect the interests of Wales, assisting the Corporation in formulating objectives, monitor them and help in the allocation of funding for programmes and services within the overall budget for Wales.

3.1.2 HTV Wales

The Channel 3 licence for Wales and the West of England is held by HTV, which covers both a nation and a region. HTV therefore provides two entirely separate and distinct services – HTV Wales and HTV West. HTV Wales broadcasts, in English, some 610 hours of national programmes for Wales each year. HTV Wales also produces Welsh language programmes for S4C.

The HTV studios are situated in Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff. Regional offices are located in Carmarthen, Colwyn Bay, Mold, Newtown, Swansea and Wrexham.

HTV Wales' output includes news, current affairs, and a diverse range of other programmes including drama, documentaries, entertainment series, sports, arts and religious programmes.

For the second year in succession, HTV Wales has won a major award for its Cultural Diversity Campaign, which it is continuing to run throughout this year. The channel won the media category in the Diversity Awards Wales for 'genuine commitment to diversity practices and the appreciation of diversity within their environment'. The 2002 Awards were sponsored by the National Assembly for Wales and organised by the Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales in partnership with a number of other organisations.

During the past year, HTV joined all other ITV companies in signing up to a new 'ITV Charter for Broadcasting in the Nations and Regions' with new measures underpinning

accountability to our viewers. In addition, HTV has established two Regional Advisory Councils, one for Wales and one for the West of England, to monitor programmes and measure HTV's performance against the requirements of the Independent Television Commission licence.

3.1.3 S4C

Since 1982, all Welsh language TV programmes, from whatever source, have been transmitted on S4C to create one comprehensive Welsh medium service. Prior to S4C's establishment, the limited number of Welsh programmes produced were scattered throughout BBC1 and ITV schedules. S4C is a commissioning broadcaster, rather than a programme producer, creating jobs and boosting local economies throughout Wales.

All the services on offer are transmitted from S4C's Headquarters in Llanishen, Cardiff.

S4C has a statutory obligation to broadcast a majority of Welsh language output during peak viewing hours (1800 - 2200). The schedule provides a wide variety of popular TV - drama, entertainment, sports, music, news and current affairs, games and quizzes, youth and children's programming. S4C Digital also provides regular extended coverage of the arts, youth culture and current affairs.

S4C is funded by an annual fixed budget from the Treasury. Since January 1 1993, the channel is also responsible for selling its own advertising airtime and ploughs the net revenue back into the service.

S4C is accountable to The Welsh Fourth Channel Authority, an independent broadcasting authority, responsible for S4C's strategic policy. The Authority's Chair and members are appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, following an open procedure of application and interview that is accessible to all.

3.2 Local Television

There are currently no Local Television operators broadcasting in Wales.

3.3 Independent Production Sector

The UK has had an independent production sector for television since the inception of Channel 4 in 1982. The sector has proved an enormous creative success and has been responsible for some of the most original, innovative, popular and challenging programmes on British television. It has had a substantial impact on UK television through the provision of price and creative competition, thus contributing to efficiency and quality in production.

Independent producers currently enjoy the protection of statutory independent production quotas. These provide that public service broadcasters (the BBC, ITV1, Channel 4, S4C and Channel 5) must commission at least 25% of "qualifying programmes" (excluding news, Open University programmes, repeats and acquired programmes) from independent producers. All other broadcasters are subject to a quota of 10% of "qualifying programmes". These quotas provide independent

producers with some ability to compete with the larger production arms of broadcasters.

While most independent production companies are based in London, there are a significant number located in the nations and regions. Such producers can often provide a different perspective and can better reflect the interests of the communities in the areas where they are based. In Wales, the majority are based in and around Caernarfon in the north and Cardiff in the south with a small number dispersed throughout Wales.

Further information on the independent sector can be obtained from:

◆ **PACT** (The Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television)

the trade association in the UK which represents independent television, feature film, animation and interactive media production companies. (www.pact.co.uk);

◆ **TAC**

TAC (Welsh Independent Producers) is a trade association formed in 1982 to represent the interests of independents producing mainly for broadcasters in Wales such as the BBC and S4C. (www.teledwyr.com).

3.4 National Radio

The two national radio stations are BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio Cymru, broadcasting in English and Welsh respectively. Radio Wales and Radio Cymru each broadcast approximately twenty hours a day of programmes made all over Wales, specifically for the Welsh audience. They each offer a mix of news, current affairs, sport, drama, arts and religious programming.

3.5 Local Radio

Local commercial radio stations operating in Wales are:

- ◆ Bridge FM (Bridgend)
- ◆ The Wave (Swansea)
- ◆ Capital Gold (South East Wales)
- ◆ Champion FM (Caernarfon)
- ◆ Coast FM (North Wales Coast)
- ◆ Radio Ceredigion (Ceredigion)
- ◆ Radio Maldwyn (Montgomeryshire)
- ◆ Real Radio (South Wales)
- ◆ Red Dragon FM (South East Wales)
- ◆ Swansea Sound (Swansea)
- ◆ Valleys Radio (South Wales Valleys)

The Radio Authority regulates all commercial radio stations.

3.6 Broadcast Support and Other Agencies

3.6.1 Independent Television Commission (ITC)

Throughout the UK the ITC operates six national and regional offices which maintain close contact with regional licensees, gather intelligence about production, broadcasting and communications developments and promote understanding of the ITC in the respective areas.

The ITC National and Regional office for Wales and the West of England is based in Cardiff. The office represents the ITC in the area and has special responsibility for monitoring the performance of the HTV Wales and HTV West ITV services.

Programming and production from the nations and regions are an important part of the television landscape, and the regional character of ITV is a critical distinguishing feature of the channel. One of the ITC's key responsibilities is to ensure each ITV licensee provides high quality regional news and current affairs, and a diverse range of other programmes designed to reflect life within the nations and regions.

Although the majority of viewers live in areas where digital television signals can be received, digital satellite signals may not be available to a small number of viewers with very tall trees close to their house or who live near very steep hills. The ITC is working with broadcasters to improve coverage of digital terrestrial television (DTT) signals. In the short- to medium-term, however, some areas are unlikely to be able to receive signals because both digital terrestrial and analogue TV use the same set of analogue frequencies and it is very difficult to find 'gaps' in these frequencies to transmit the new digital services on.

Cable television is mainly limited to urban areas. Channel 5 reaches about 80% of the UK population.

3.6.2 Radio Authority

The Authority licenses and regulates all commercial radio services. These comprise national, local, cable, satellite and restricted services, on both analogue and digital platforms. Restricted services include all short-term, freely radiating services (for example, 'special event' radio) and highly localised permanent services such as hospital and student radio.

The Authority is responsible for monitoring the obligations on its licensees required by the Broadcasting Acts 1990 and 1996. The Authority has three main tasks: to plan frequencies; to appoint licensees with a view to broadening listener choice; and to regulate programming and advertising. It is required, after consultation, to publish Codes to which licensees must adhere. These cover programmes, advertising and sponsorship and engineering. There are also rules on ownership. The Authority can apply sanctions to licensees who break the rules. Sanctions include broadcast apologies and/or corrections, fines and the shortening or revocation of licences.

Licensees pay annual fees to the Authority and application fees are charged to applicants applying for licences. These fees are the Authority's only source of income and cover all its operating costs.

3.6.3 Sgrîn

Sgrîn, Media Agency for Wales began its work on the 1 April 1997. It is responsible for the formulation of a strategic vision for the development of the industrial and cultural aspects of film, television and new media. Sgrîn is committed to enhancing the Welsh economy and Welsh culture by encouraging industrial growth, cultural development and public involvement in all its forms. Sgrîn's current strategy focuses on developing entrepreneurship and skills within the media industries to ensure that participants from Wales are able to confidently and equitably compete in European and international markets.

Sgrîn continues to receive funding from a wide range of partners with an interest in the agency's work. In addition to its core budget – which provides for the maintenance and effective delivery of Sgrîn's main services through offices in Cardiff, Aberystwyth and Caernarfon – the past years have seen the agency significantly expand its project-funded activity.

Sgrîn's core funding partners for 2000/01 were The Arts Council of Wales (ACW), The Welsh Development Agency (WDA), BBC Wales, S4C, TAC and The Film Council. WalesTrade International and ITV (HTV) joined Sgrîn in 2002.

In addition to this funding, Sgrîn works closely with a number of various agencies and companies throughout the UK on specific projects, these include HTV - the Channel 3 franchise holder in Wales; The British Council; Wales Arts International; the Welsh Tourist Board; Barcud Derwen; The International Film School of Wales and Channel 4 UK.

3.6.4 BAFTA Wales

BAFTA Wales is the Welsh branch of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and was established in 1987. It is dedicated to promoting and rewarding the best in film, television and interactive media.

It regularly holds special events and film screenings, and stages an annual Awards Ceremony which honours winners in 33 categories incorporating craft, performance and production.

The organisation is administered by a Management Committee elected annually from amongst its membership.

3.6.5 Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union (BECTU)

BECTU is the independent union for those working in broadcasting, film, theatre, entertainment, leisure, interactive media and allied areas who are primarily based in the United Kingdom. The union represents permanently employed, contract and freelance workers within these sectors.

The BECTU Wales office is located in Cardiff.

The union is financed entirely by individual subscriptions from members.

3.6.6 The Welsh Broadcasting Trust

The Welsh Broadcasting Trust is a registered charity, established to promote and support educational activities in relation to television, film, radio and new media. Its aim is to expand and enrich the range of skills and experience for the media of the future. The Welsh Broadcasting Trust was set up on March 1st, 1988, for the purpose of distributing grants to applicants who were anxious to expand their knowledge of the media. The Trustees meet twice a year, usually at the end of March and beginning of September, in order to assess these applications.

3.6.7 The Celtic Film and Television Festival

The Festival promotes the cultures and languages of Brittany, Cornwall, Ireland, Scotland and Wales on film and in broadcasting. The festival is a celebration of the best of production from these regions and countries. For four days in April 2003 Belfast will host the 24th Celtic Film and Television Festival at the Waterfront Hall.

3.7 Earlier recommendations

Regarding the broadcasting industry in Wales, *A Culture in Common* recommended:

- ◆ That the funding base of Sgrŷn is such so as to reduce its dependence on the broadcast industry;
- ◆ Sgrŷn should be encouraged in the swift initiation of its media education policy in the moving image and to prioritise media education at the primary level.

In addition *Creative Future: A Culture Strategy for Wales* recommended the following action:

- ◆ 6.4 To ask the Radio Authority and other regulators to investigate ways of making the audio visual environment net in Wales a leader in the field (Lead body - Assembly);
- ◆ 6.16 To strengthen our relationships with the broadcasters based in Wales, and to continue to represent the interests of Welsh viewers and listeners (Lead body Assembly);
- ◆ 6.19 In partnership with UK wide authorities, encourage new broadcasting initiatives based in Wales and increase the number and range of TV and radio channels covering the affairs and interests of Wales (Lead body: Assembly);

4. English medium Welsh drama (film)

4.1 Wales Screen Commission

The Wales Screen Commission was established in 2001 as a result of recommendations included in the National Assembly's Post 16 Education Committee (superseded by the Committee for Culture, Sports and the Welsh Language) Report *A Culture in Common*, together with complementary recommendations made in 'The Newidïem Report'.

Taking on board the Committee's recommendation in *A Culture in Common* that Wales should be promoted as a "film friendly" place, the Wales Screen Commission addresses the needs highlighted for a co-ordinated approach to the work of the regional film commissions and the international promotion of Wales as a location.

The benefit to the Welsh economy of attracting producers to make their films in Wales is highly significant, as film productions can contribute millions to any local economy. There are also many long-term benefits derived from films produced and filmed in Wales being seen on cinema and television screens all over the world - a recognised promotion of the special qualities of Wales to an audience worldwide.

In addition to the Wales Screen Commission's strategic role, support is also provided to the work of the regional Wales Screen Commission offices.

The activities of the Wales Screen Commission are steered by the management committee that includes representatives from Sgrŷn, the WDA, ELWa and the regional offices

4.2 Welsh Animation Group

The Cardiff International Film Festival Wales (IFFW), in November 2002 coincided with the *Focus on Film* conference. Both events highlighted the wealth of talent in Wales and the benefits of attracting producers to Wales. Part of the festival was dedicated to animation. Out of the event came the establishment of the *Welsh Animation Group*. Its aim was to bring together everybody working in animation in Wales. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.welshanimationgroup.com/about.htm>

4.3 Earlier recommendations

Regarding the film industry in Wales, *A Culture in Common* recommended:

- ◆ The Wales should be promoted as a "film friendly" place both to attract international productions to film in Wales but also to acknowledge the benefits of local economies of filming in the country;
- ◆ The International film Festival of Wales (IFFW) to be encouraged to attract a wider and more diverse audience from outside the industry and for its touring initiatives;
- ◆ The place of animation as a significant part of the media industry to be acknowledged and supported and IFFW to be encouraged to develop the Festival as a strong platform for Welsh animation.

In relation to the film industry, *Creative Future: A Culture Strategy for Wales* recommended the following action:

- ◆ 6.10 To restructure the work of the film commissions in Wales to ensure the most simple, efficient and effective service to the film industry and to increase the total inward investment (Lead bodies: Welsh Development Agency and Sgrîn);
- ◆ 6.12 To establish a film production fund of sufficient scale as to allow the doubling of film production activity from the highest recent levels (Lead body Assembly);
- ◆ 8.12 To attract a major animation conference, the European Cartoon Forum, to North Wales in 2002 (Lead body: Assembly);
- ◆ 8.13 To organise a Focus on Film conference (Lead body: Sgrîn).

5. Dance

5.1 National Youth Dance Wales

National Youth Dance Wales is a division of National Youth Arts Wales. It provides a national focus for the wide variety of youth dance activities currently available across Wales. It also provides a programme of regional and residential dance workshops and has organised a number of events linking professional and amateur dancers across Wales.

National Youth Arts Wales is sponsored by:

The Post Office
 MO DO
 The Western Mail
 Eisteddfod Cenedlaethol Cymru
 Barclays
 Classic FM

5.2 Diversions – The Dance Company for Wales

Diversions tours across the whole of Wales and throughout the UK, performing in venues as varied as national touring houses and small community halls. In the last five years it has also expanded its international touring, with visits to Latvia, Australia, Slovenia, Ecuador, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Indonesia and Russia.

Whilst on tour the company always undertakes a range of workshops and lecture demonstrations at schools, colleges and local dance groups.

5.3 Rubicon Dance

Based in Cardiff, but also covering Newport, Rubicon Dance is a community dance development organisation. It offers dance to people of all ages and abilities in a variety of community settings.

Rubicon Dance also offers various training opportunities for people over 14 years old in a number of dance styles including Jazz, youth dance, ballet, disco, street, tap and contemporary.

Rubicon Dance is funded by:

The Arts Council of Wales
County of Cardiff
Newport County Borough Council
Atlantic Foundation
New Opportunities Fund
First Plus Financial Services
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Eversheds

Full-time course accreditation provided by WEA
The dance development programme in Cardiff and Newport is supported by an "Arts For All" Lottery grant from the Arts Council of Wales.

5.4 Earlier recommendations

Specifically regarding dance, *A Culture in Common* recommended:

- ◆ that the Arts Council for Wales should consider the various issues surrounding dance in Wales and commission a survey or consultation exercise on the need for a co-ordinated national dance strategy;
- ◆ that the Arts Council for Wales should work in conjunction with organisations such as TRAC and the Welsh Folk Dance Society to develop a strategy for traditional dance and music.

The following action was recommended in *Creative Future – A Culture Strategy for Wales*:

- ◆ To develop a new strategy for dance aimed significantly raising the status and resource level available for this art-form; (lead body: Arts Council for Wales: 2002-03)

6. Traditional Arts

Celfyddydau Mari Arts has been created to research, preserve and encourage the use of all aspects of the traditional arts including song, music, dance, drama and storytelling. It includes an archive of traditional arts material collected in Wales.

Further information is available from:

www.folkwales.org.uk

7. Festivals

Annex 1 contains a list of festivals in Wales.

8. English Medium Welsh Poetry

The Members Research Service has identified two key organisations in relation to English medium Welsh poetry, *Seren* and *Skald*.

8.1. *Seren*

Seren is an independent literary publisher, specialising in English-language writing from Wales. *Seren* evolved from *Poetry Wales Press*, and poetry remains central to its business. There are over seventy poets on their list, a mixture of established names and newcomers. They publish the quarterly magazine *Poetry Wales*. Under the editorship of Robert Minhinnick this is an outward-looking journal with a serious commitment to poetry and its role in a wider culture.

Seren can be contacted at:

First and Second Floors,
38 - 40 Nolton Street,
Bridgend,
Wales,
CF31 3BN
Tel:01656 663018
Fax:01656 649226

8.2 *Skald*

Skald is a magazine that is published twice yearly. It includes poetry and short stories in both English and Welsh, however it is primarily a poetry magazine through the medium of English. *Skald* receives funding from the Arts Council for Wales.

Skald can be contacted at:

Skald,
2 Greenfield Terrace,
Menai Bridge,
Anglesey,
LL59 5AY

Sources: BBC Wales
HTV
S4C
Independent television Commission
PACT
TAC
The Radio Authority
Sgrîŋ
BAFTA

BECTU

Wales Media Forum

The Arts Council of Wales Performing Arts Database:

<http://www.artswales.org.uk/artbdb/index.asp>

www.nyaw.co.uk

www.rubicondance.co.uk

<http://www.diversionsdance.co.uk>

A Culture in Common : Post-16 Education and Training committee report December 2000

Creative Future: A Culture Strategy for Wales: Welsh Assembly Govt. January 2002

Arts Council for Wales

Wales Screen Commission

Welsh Animation Group

Focus on Film

New Welsh Review magazine

Academi website: www.academi.org

University of Wales press <http://www.uwp.co.uk/>

<http://www.planetmagazine.org.uk/html/splash.htm>

Arts Council for Wales <http://www.artswales.org.uk/language.htm>

Welsh Assembly Government intranet: Culture Division pages

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/literature/festivals/Wales.htm>

Seren Website

Skald Website

The British Council's List of Literature Festivals in Wales

Abergavenny Festival

Abergavenny Tourist Information Centre
Swan Meadows
Cross Street
Abergavenny
Gwent
NP7 5HH

Telephone +44 (0)1873 857588

Fax +44 (0)1873 850217

E-mail abergavenny-tic@tsww.com

Dates July/August 2003

The Welsh border town stages a programme of music, drama, literature, folk, jazz, choirs, children's events, workshops and art exhibitions.

Bangor Fiction Festival: Words and Images

Dr Graeme Harper
Director
Development Centre for Creative and Performing Arts
University of Wales
Bangor
Gwyendd
LL57 2DG

Telephone +44 (0)1248 383656

Fax +44 (0)1248 382102

E-mail g.harper@bangor.ac.uk/els01d@bangor.ac.uk

Dates October 2002

A festival celebrating literature and film with readings, workshops and film-screenings. It includes a wide range of English language events, as well as events in the Welsh language. The programme varies from year to year but includes a regular diversity of events from the fiction quiz in pubs around Bangor, to live readings by writers.

Bay Lit Festival (biennial)

Peter Finch
Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive
Yr Academi Gymreig / The Welsh Academy
Ty Mount Stuart / Mount Stuart House
Sgwâr Mount Stuart / Mount Stuart Square
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF10 5FQ

Telephone +44 (0)29 2047 2266

Fax +44 (0)29 2049 2930

E-mail heledd@academi.org

Web site <http://www.academi.org>

Dates April 2004

Biennial, bilingual (Welsh and English) festival or varied literary activity, organised by the Welsh Academy.

Beyond the Border International Storytelling Festival

Director

St Donats Arts Centre

St Donats Castle

Nr Llantwit Major

Vale of Glamorgan

CF61 1WF

Telephone +44 (0)1446 799100 (Box office)

Fax +44 (0)1446 794711/+44 (0)1446 799101 (Box office)

E-mail boxoffice@stdonats.com

Web site <http://www.stdonats.com>

Dates 4 - 6 July 2003

An international festival celebrating oral tradition and bringing together storytellers, poets and musicians from around the world. The theme for next year's festival will be 'Ten Years of International Storytelling in Wales'.

Booktide Children's Arts Festival

Nest Davis

Ceredigion Library

Corporation Street

Aberystwyth

Wales

SW23 2BU

Telephone +44 (0)1970 633702

E-mail nestd@ceredigion.gov.uk

Web site <http://www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre/>

Dates 4 - 8 November 2002

A programme of performances, talks and workshops for schools throughout Ceredigion. This year's festival sees the launch of the Welsh cartoon film 'Techwin y Tractor' which is a S4C film, as well as Jenny Sullivan reading from her latest book, Malachy Doyle, Jenny Fell talking about book illustrations, Caroline Lawrence leading a workshop centred around her book 'The Roman Mysteries' entitled 'A Day in the Life of Flavia Gemina', there will be an exhibition of children's book illustrations entitled 'The Bakers dozen' which have been selected by Quentin Blake and there will also be a performance by the Nuffield Theatre Company which is based on the book 'Not Now Bernard'.

Dylan Thomas - The Celebration

David Woolley

The Dylan Thomas Centre

Somerset Place

Swansea

Wales

SA1 1RR

Telephone +44 (0)1792 463980

Fax +44 (0)1792 463993

E-mail dylan.thomas@cableol.co.uk

Web site <http://www.dylanthomas.org>

Dates 27 October - 9 November 2002

A festival between the dates of Dylan Thomas's birth and death with readings, talks, performances, films, exhibitions and lectures. The focus will be on Dylan Thomas and his friends, contemporaries, and those influenced by him. The festival will also focus on recordings of Thomas, as 2002 marks the 50th anniversary of the series of 'Caedmon Records', which captured his powerful voice and instantly recognisable reading style during his 1952 tour of America. Plans are also underway for a year-round celebration of Thomas and his work in 2003, the 50th anniversary of his death.

Explore

Ruth Cayford

Permanent Waves

Recreate

Wroughton Place

Ely Bridge

Cardiff

Wales

CF5 4AB

Telephone +44 (0)29 205 69800

E-mail pw@recreate.demon.co.uk

Venue Gregynog conference centre, Powys, Wales

Dates 13 - 14 September 2003

A focus for women in the arts in South Wales centred around International Women's Day. A general arts festival with stories, poetry and workshops.

National Eisteddfod of Wales

Hywel Wyn Edwards

The Organiser

Eisteddfod Office

Siambrau'r Goets Fawr

1 Stryd yr Eglwys

Y Trallwng / Welshpool

Powys

Wales

SY21 7DG

Telephone +44 (0)845 122 2003/(0)845 122 1176 (bookings from 1 March 2003)

Fax +44 (0)1938 554891

E-mail info@eisteddfod.org.uk

Web site <http://www.eisteddfod.org.uk>

Dates 2 - 9 August 2003

This large Welsh cultural festival is based on 800 years of tradition. The range of activities at the festival include competitions in all aspects of the arts; fringe performances and majestic ceremonies including the crowning and the chairing of the bards. In addition to activities held in the main pavilion, it houses over 300 trade stands along with a literary pavilion, a music studio, a movement and dance theatre, a rock pavilion and a purpose built theatre. All events are held in Welsh. The event is to be held in Meifod in Powys.

Rich Text Literature Festival

Greg Stevenson
Festival Organiser
c/o Aberystwyth Arts Centre
Penglais
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
Wales
SY23 3DE

Telephone +44 (0)1970 622882

E-mail post@richtext.org.uk

Web site <http://www.richtext.org.uk>/<http://www.academi.org>

Dates 3 - 6 October 2002

A festival of readings, workshops and a showcase for new fiction from Wales. This year's festival will include a 'Words and Personal Expression' workshop, a creative writing workshop with Hilary Llewellyn-Williams, the author Jon Meirion Jones discussing his work, a writing workshop for school pupils, a travel writing workshop, poetry readings, an evening with Iwan Llwyd, Nigel Jenkins, John Barnie and Twm Morys performing the blues and reading their poetry, a recipe writing workshop, workshops with Mererid Hopwood, a Caradoc Evans tour with John Harris, a book launch of 'Diving Girls' by Jo Mazelis, a reading of 'Sugar and Slate' by Charlotte Williams, a workshop with Lucy Gough, William Owen Roberts reading from his latest novel, Patricia Duncker in conversation, a performance poetry evening, a practical poetry workshop, a literary talk and tour with Dafydd Johnston and the storyteller Cat telling some tales.

Tenby Arts Festival

Chris Sierwald
Treasurer
1 Rock House
St Julian Street
Tenby
Pembrokeshire
SA70 7BJ

Telephone +44 (0)1834 845614

Fax +44 (0)1834 845898

E-mail tenbyartsfest@tenby.org

Web site <http://www.tenbyartsfest.com>

Dates 20 - 27 September 2003

A music, arts and literature festival. Welsh culture and youth involvement is encouraged with events that include Male Voice Choirs, music, drama, poetry, talks, films and street entertainment.

The Guardian Hay Festival

Lyndy Cooke
General Manager
The Drill Hall
25 Lion Street
Hay-on-Wye
HR3 5AD

Telephone +44 (0)1497 821 217/+44 (0)1497 821 299 (Box Office)

Fax +44 (0)1497 821 066

E-mail admin@hayfestival.co.uk

Web site <http://www.hayfestival.co.uk>

Dates 23 May - 1 June 2003

The Hay Festival is a broad annual celebration of literature and the arts with app. 200 different events held across ten days. The events appeal to a huge range of different interests from comedy to political debate, book reviews to current affairs, art exhibition to panel discussions, music concert to theatre and it also offers a full children's programme.

Ty Newydd Festival (biennial)

Sally Baker

Ty Newydd Writers Centre

Llanystumdwy

Cricieth

Gwynedd

Wales

LL52 0LW

Telephone +44 (0)1766 522811

Fax +44 (0)1766 523095

E-mail tynewydd@dial.pipex.org

Web site <http://www.tynewydd.org>

Dates 11 - 13 April 2003

The festival is a biennial, bilingual event mixing poets, storytellers, novelists and critics. There are poetry slams, poetry stomps, literary walks, performances mixing literature with visual art, with dance and with music.

Wordplay Literature Festival for Young People

David Woolley

Literature Officer

The Dylan Thomas Centre

Somerset Place

Swansea

SA1 1RR

Telephone +44 (0)1792 463980 (enquiries)/+44 (0)1792 463892 (bookings)

Fax +44 (0)1792 463993

E-mail dylan.thomas@cableol.co.uk

Web site <http://www.dylanthomas.org>

Venue The Dylan Thomas Centre

Region Wales

Dates 7 - 12 October 2002

The Annual festival of Literature and Arts for Young People incorporates over 100 events and features over 40 authors and illustrators plus special exhibitions and evening events for adults.

Source: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/literature/festivals/Wales.htm>