

**Date :** 26 March 2003  
**Time :** 9:00 – 12:30  
**Venue:** Committee Room 1

## **REPORT OF THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, SPORT AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE**

### **WELSH LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONFERENCE**

1. On 13th March I attended the annual Welsh Library and Information Conference in Llandrindod Wells. In my keynote address, I drew on the important contribution that the library and information sector in Wales can make to social inclusion. Tied in with this, I was pleased to preview at the conference the social inclusion mapping report which my Library and Information Services Council commissioned. The report looks at the social inclusion activity being undertaken by publicly funded libraries in Wales and is being disseminated widely within the library and information sector and will be posted on the Assembly's website. I shall also ensure that each Member of the Committee receives a copy.

2. The Council intends holding seminars later in the year for the library and information community and other stakeholders to discuss the report's findings and how to best to use them as a springboard for good practice guidance.

### **'CYFOETH CYMRU GYFAN - SHARING TREASURES'**

3. On Thursday 6 March I visited two sites on Ynys Môn. Both have received support from the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Council of Museums in Wales, through the 'Cyfoeth Cymru Gyfan – Sharing Treasures' partnership programme.

4. I opened the Old Bakery adjacent to Llynnon Mill - the only working windmill in Wales - at Llanddeusant. The bakery which had closed in 1939 and had fallen into ruin, has been partially re-developed and is complementary to the Mill. As a result of the support it has received, Llynnon Mill has attained registered museum status.

5. I also opened the first exhibition in the 'Cyfoeth Cymru Gyfan – Sharing Treasures' programme – the splendid 'Re-Creations' exhibition at Oriel Ynys Môn. 'Re-Creations' explores ways in which the past is pictured through the eyes of craftsmen, historians, archaeologists and forensic scientists. The exhibition, which includes illustrations provided by Cadw, was originally on display at NMGW, Cathays Park.

6. These events were made possible by the co-operation of NMGW, CMW, Cadw and Ynys Môn County Council, with the financial help provided by the partnership programme.

### **OWAIN GLYNDŴR'S PARLIAMENT : 2004 - THE 600<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

7. Members of this Committee will know that there was a short debate on Wednesday 19 March on 'Owain Glyndŵr's Parliament – the 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary'.

8. In advance of that debate on Monday 17 March, I met Henry Evans, Chairman of the Management Committee of the Owain Glyndwr Centre at Machynlleth - Mick Bates AM also attended. I had been invited to hear about the Management Committee's proposals to refurbish the Centre and also to celebrate the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Owain Glyndŵr's Parliament. Their plans have yet to be finalised and I have asked the Management Committee to keep me informed of progress.

### **NATIONAL MUSEUM**

9. I am pleased to announce that, in accordance with its Corporate Plan, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales has put forward proposals for the management of two of its smaller museum locations

### **SEGONTIUM ROMAN MUSEUM**

10. The site of the Museum belongs to Cadw in a complex joint ownership with the National Trust. The new arrangement will transfer management of the site to an independent local trust whose members come from the local

town and county councils, the National Trust, the National Museum, the University of Wales and other interested parties. The National Museum will continue to lend objects for display at the Segontium site. One advantage of the new trust will be that it will be eligible to apply for lottery funding towards developing the site.

### **TURNER HOUSE**

11. The National Museum will also enter into an agreement for a two-year licence of Turner House Gallery in Penarth to Ffotogallery, "the national development agency for photography in Wales." This fulfils the legal obligation in the covenant of the building to provide publicly-managed visual arts programmes at the venue.

12. Ffotogallery will use Turner House to put on photography based exhibitions and generate a renewed programme of local education activity. The National Museum will retain ownership of Turner House, and will use cost savings to fund much needed work to the building to improve disabled access.

13. The National Museum will use the licence period to consider the longer term future of the site.

### **WELSH BOOKS COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL BOOK DAY**

14. On 6<sup>th</sup> March, I announced an additional grant of £25k to the Welsh Books Council to help them develop their Gwales website into one which sells books directly to the general public. This was one of the recommendations of the Task & Finish Group on Publishing and the development of the website, which should be completed by April, will benefit publishers and customers alike.

15. The announcement coincided with a visit to Bangor Library to mark International Book Day.

### **IAITH PAWB**

16. The Assembly Government's National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales has been launched at a number of venues across Wales during March. The

official launch at a child-care centre in Ystalyfera on 4<sup>th</sup> March has been followed by launches at:

- Caernarfon (6<sup>th</sup> March), focussing on the voluntary and social care sectors;
- Portmeirion (13<sup>th</sup> March), focussing on the private sector in North Wales;
- Pontypridd (19<sup>th</sup> March), focussing on the private sector in South Wales;
- Pontyberem (25<sup>th</sup> March), focussing on community language initiatives.

### **WELSH LANGUAGE BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

17. On 5<sup>th</sup> March, I announced the appointment of 6 new members to the Welsh Language Board. They are Marc Phillips, Ifan Evans, Betsan Dafydd, Nia Parry, Jeffrey Morgan and Colin Baker.

18. Rhiannon Walters, Sue Camper, Arun Midha and Colin Williams have all accepted invitations to stay on the Board for a second term.

### **SIRIOL ANIMATION STUDIOS**

19. On 4<sup>th</sup> March, I officially opened new studios for Siriol Productions suitable for producing 3D animations. Siriol Productions have won a commission to produce a new series of Fireman Sam, which will be produced at these studios. Siriol Productions received Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) amounting to £115k from the Assembly Government to help build these new studios.

### **CAROLINE THOMSON, BBC**

20. On 24<sup>th</sup> February, I met Caroline Thomson, Director of Public Policy at the BBC, and discussed a variety of issues relating to developments in the broadcasting sector.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENTERTAINMENT UNIONS**

21. On 20<sup>th</sup> March, I met representatives from BECTU, Equity, the National Union of Journalists and the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom to discuss issues surrounding the Communications Bill.

## **NATIONAL LOTTERY**

22. On 27 February I met Tessa Jowell and had a useful discussion on a range of issues that have emerged from last year's Review of Lottery Funding. We spoke about devolution and I will be writing to Tessa Jowell outlining our proposals for legislative change that will give the Assembly the powers to exercise greater strategic influence over the way Lottery funds for the good causes are used in Wales. I will also be pressing the case for an increase in the percentage share going to the arts and sports fund in Wales. The committee will be kept fully informed of developments.

## **NATIONAL EVENTS STRATEGY**

23. The Events Strategy Group met for the last time to discuss progress on 3 March. The next step will be for the consultants to submit a draft strategy for consideration by the official level working group (which includes representatives of the main cultural and economic ASPBs and local government) by the end of this month. The aim will be to agree a draft strategy for consultation in the early summer. The final strategy will be published in the autumn.

## **NEWPORT SPORT AWARDS**

24. I attended the Newport 2002 Sport Awards on 7 March organised by the Newport City Council. The awards paid tribute to the first class sporting achievements gained by the local community.

25. I was delighted to be able to present the Young Sportsman of the Year Award. The event was very professionally organised and covered a diverse range of sports. It was very encouraging to see so many young people involved and of the high standard in which they compete.

## **FREE SWIMMING PILOT SCHEME**

26. I launched the Welsh Assembly Government's free swimming pilot scheme at Plas Arthur Leisure Centre in Llangefni, Isle of Anglesey, on 6 March. The pilot scheme was also launched simultaneously by the First Minister and the Finance Minister at Penyrheol Community Sports Centre in

Swansea. The scheme will introduce free swimming for children and young people during the school holidays.

27. The first stage pilot scheme will run in ten local authority areas around Wales during the Easter school holidays – Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Wrexham, Torfaen, Newport, Caerphilly, Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Swansea. It is intended that all 22 local authorities will participate in the second stage pilot in the summer.

### **LAUNCH OF NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK**

28. I attended the launch of Science Week in Wales on 7 March at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. The theme for this year's event was "How Active is Wales", aimed at identifying trends in young people's sporting and activity patterns across Wales and linking this with issues of health and lifestyle. Around 600 children attended the event together with members of the public from a range of interested groups.

### **LICENSING BILL**

29. The UK Government's Licensing Bill has completed its progress through the House of Lords. The Bill is much changed from that introduced earlier in the session – due largely to a series of welcome Government amendments. Detailed consideration in the Commons will follow. It might be helpful to members if I outline the main developments.

30. The Bill will abolish the septennial Sunday opening polls in Wales.

31. Following representations, I wrote in January to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport expressing concerns about the implications of the proposed new licensing regime on cultural life in Wales. The Secretary of State replied and acknowledged that the Assembly should have been consulted on the Bill; the Assembly will be kept fully informed of developments from now on.

32. Key concessions made by the UK government include:

- places of public religious worship will be exempt from the licensing regime altogether and will not need to obtain a licence;
- community halls, village halls, church halls, parish halls and the like will be exempt from paying a fee although they will still need to obtain the licence;
- musicians will not be held responsible if they perform in unlicensed premises and are not responsible either for managing the premises or organising the event;
- the provision of entertainment at garden fetes held for non-profitable purposes will be exempt from the licensing regime (but the sale of alcohol at such events will still require a licence).

33. The Department of Culture Media and Sport has also set up a working group to advise on drawing up the guidance which will be issued on implementation of the new legislation. The Arts Council of Wales has accepted an invitation to sit on the group, so we will be able to ensure that the Welsh perspective is reflected in the guidance.

34. The Assembly Government will continue to monitor developments. I am considering the possibility of seeking further amendments with a view to reducing the administrative burdens which the licensing regime might impose on small community organisations. These concerns apply equally in parts of England as they do in Wales.

35. I am looking at the possibility within the Bill of the Assembly having regulation-making powers. However, the regulation-making powers within the Bill are limited to essentially technical issues such as the format and scope of notices; the detail is already on the face of the Bill. Informed input to the Guidance and a possible amendment to reduce the administrative burden is more likely to achieve an outcome.

## **BARBICAN SPEECH**

36. On 27 February I delivered a speech to the City of London University's Department of Arts Policy and Management on *"The cultural sector in Wales: a review of progress since devolution"*. The audience was made up of postgraduate students of the arts and arts management and the specialist media. We had a well-informed and interesting exchange. The event appears to have been well received.

## **FUNDING FOR LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC EISTEDDFOD**

37. The Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod will have received grants totaling £190,000 from the Arts Council of Wales over the period 2002-03 to 2003-04. For 2002-03, they have received annual revenue funding of £40,000 and an Arts for All lottery award of £60,000; and in 2003-04, they will receive annual revenue funding of £40,000 and a capacity building scheme award of £50,000.

38. The Arts for All and capacity building awards follow a marketing review of the Eisteddfod's organisation undertaken with the Arts Council and they contribute towards the salaries of the Chief Executive, a Marketing Assistant and work to improve the marketing of the festival. The annual revenue awards are support for other running costs.

39. The Arts Council is also working with the Eisteddfod organisation in an advisory capacity to ensure that the Eisteddfod has sound and effective artistic, management and marketing strategies. The joint approach is effective and the Eisteddfod appears to have returned to a situation where it is making money (although I understand final audited accounts for 2002-03 are not yet available). The programme for 2003-04 looks very promising with Shirley Bassey headlining the Festival.

40. I am keen that the Arts Council continues to work closely with the Eisteddfod organisation; their officers will continue to monitor the situation and I have asked that they keep me and my officials informed of developments.



## **ARTS COUNCIL OF WALES: APPOINTMENTS EXERCISE FOR CHAIR**

41. On 28 February, I announced the appointment of Geraint Talfan Davies as Chair of the Arts Council of Wales from 1 April 2003. Mr Davies has a clear understanding of the challenges that face the arts in Wales and I am sure that he will build on the excellent foundation which Sybil Crouch, the current Chair has put in place. His appointment will be for a term of three years.

## **TRANSFER OF THE COLLECTION OF ART**

42. I have agreed to the transfer of a further 63 pieces of art from the Welsh Art Collection from the Arts Council of Wales to certain public institutions. The institutions concerned are:

- Paintings in Hospitals (Wales Section)
- Torfaen Museum Trust, Pontypool Museum
- University of Glamorgan
- University of Wales Bangor
- University of Wales, Swansea

43. I am delighted that the public will soon be able to enjoy these works of art which have previously been held in storage.

## **LAUNCH OF “SUPPORTING CREATIVITY”**

44. I launched the Arts Council of Wales’ Five-Year Arts Development Strategy “*Supporting Creativity*” at Craft in the Bay on 11 March.

45. *Supporting Creativity* is particularly important in taking forward *Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol* and has come about through a process of open dialogue and consultation with artists and arts organisations across Wales. It is intended to develop a high quality, artistically and financially sustainable arts sector in Wales.

46. Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM also launched the Strategy in the Ruthin Craft Centre in North Wales on 14 March.

## **CARDIFF - CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2008**

47. Cardiff is one of the six shortlisted cities competing for the title of European Capital of Culture 2008, the other cities being Bristol, Newcastle/Gateshead, Birmingham, Liverpool and Oxford. All of the cities were sent a further list of detailed questions by DCMS and were also advised that the next stage of assessment included a visit from the panel during April and a final interview in May. Decisions about the nominated city are planned for May with an announcement in early June.

48. The Assembly has so far provided £1.382m funding to support Cardiff's bid : £500,000 in 2001/2 and; £882,000 in 2002/3. The money has been used in the following ways:

- Employing staff to work on preparing the bid documentation prior to submission; and developing the bid after submission to DCMS.
- Developing and refining the business plan, answering additional question raised by DCMS following shortlisting, preparing for further visits from assessment panel and for final interviews in May.
- A marketing, promotion and public relations campaign and events staged to establish Cardiff amongst the leading contenders for Capital of Culture status.
- Developing All-Wales project networks.
- Collaborating on projects around the United Kingdom e.g. the Fear of Flying Circus with the London International Festival of Theatre; Seismic Shifts with the University of Lancaster; Trac with Folkworks; Bite Festival with Barbican, London; *Who were the Celts* with the British and Edinburgh Museums.
- Collaborations in Europe including: Literature across frontiers – the Vale of Glamorgan festival with the Janek Institute, Czech Republic; Cardiff Cacophony with Norway, Spain and Finland; Young Peoples Dance Platform with Netherlands, Silesia and Moscow and Guerilla TV European links with Barcelona and Stuttgart.
- Cost of furnishing and equipment for office facilities.

## **WELSH MUSIC FOUNDATION**

49. I promised to include information on the WMF in my Minister's Report. By way of context I would point out to the Committee that the music industry is worth £3.5 billion a year to the UK economy: it is twice as big as the film industry and employs more people than manufacturing industry. Wales has proved its ability to create international musical talent. It is also clear from the successes of countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Ireland what benefits are possible from a country directly harnessing and promoting its indigenous talent.

50. The aim of WMF is to create a support system for the development of a commercially viable Welsh music industry. WMF was formed in January 2000. At the beginning of 2003 its future was put on a more secure footing when it received core funding from the Welsh Development Agency. WMF focuses on the economic development of culture. It is run by successful practitioners from the music business as a private company. All projects spending over and above core costs have to be funded by investment. It is governed by a Board, which is representative of the international music business.

51. The WMF Board includes :-

- Gareth Hopkins – Head of Business Affairs at EMI International
- Ann Harrison – Head of Music at Harbottle and Lewis Lawyers
- Dai Davies – former Chief Executive of Sanctuary Music Group
- John Brand – Manager of Stereophonics

52. WMF also has a stake holder group consisting of the music SME's throughout Wales to ensure that it represents the needs of the sector.

## **WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE**

53. I laid a statement before the Assembly on 10 March to provide an update on the Wales Millennium Centre. I am including a copy of my statement with this report (see annex B). I am happy to take questions.

## PROPOSED TRANSFER OF RESOURCES BETWEEN BUDGETS FOR 2002-03

54. The Finance Minister will shortly be making a statement about in-year resources for 2002-03. I am delighted to inform you of the following:-

- We will be receiving an additional **£12.865m** for a number of major initiatives including the Wales Millennium Centre, the National Botanic Garden of Wales, the National Waterfront Museum, Big Pit, the Newport Ship, and to help support several arts events and organisations such as the Brecon Jazz Festival and Chamber Orchestras. This represents a further **15%** increase in the overall Culture Budget for 2002/3 and is in addition to the £10m previously secured this year to support the development of the Wales Millennium Centre;
- We have also transferred resources between individual budget lines to allow maximum utilisation of existing funding

55. I am taking this opportunity to inform the Committee of the proposed changes to the budget at the SEG level, which are listed in the following table.

### PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO 2002-03 BUDGETS

<b>Culture, Sport and Welsh Language MEG</b>			
<b>SEG Title</b>	<b>£000s</b>		
	<b>Current Provision</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>	<b>Proposed Revised Provision</b>
National Museums & Galleries of Wales	20,536	1,060	21,596
National Library for Wales	13,169	190	13,359
Arts Council of Wales	20,748	694	21,442
Sports Council for Wales	9,565	746	10,311
Welsh Language Board	6,872	525	7,397
Other Arts Libraries and Culture Support (incl. Newport Ship and Assistance to Welsh Language)	2750	4,687	7,437
Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales	1,664	283	1,947
Wales Millennium Centre (WMC)	10,000	4,680	14,680
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,304</b>	<b>12,865</b>	<b>98,169</b>

## **PROGRESS ON CREATIVE FUTURE: CYMRU GREADIGOL**

56. I reported last month that I had met with Cymru'n Creu to review the matrices showing progress against the targets from the Action Plans in *Creative Future: Cymru Greadigol*. We have made significant progress across the board in terms of long term and short term goals alike. Significant new money has been made available, more organisations have been supported, new strategies have been developed and new challenges identified.

57. Since the meeting, we have updated the matrices to indicate progress against each of the action points and copies of these are attached at annexes A1 and A2. The vast majority of 2001/2 targets (*Annex A1*) have been completed. For 2002/3 (*Annex A2*), 90% of the action point targets are either complete or progress is good. A summary breakdown of progress is as follows:-

	2001/2	2002/3
Actions completed	36	25
Good progress	8	26
Not yet started	1	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>58</b>

**Jenny Randerson AM**

**Minister for Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language**

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**MINISTER'S VISITS FROM 26 FEBRUARY – 4 APRIL 2003**February

Visit to GTFM Radio Station	Rhydyfelen, Pontypridd
Meeting Review of Lottery Funding	Westminster Hall, House of Commons London,
Lecture at the Barbican	Barbican Centre, London
Attend WNO & Bridgend Youth Theatre performance for HRH Prince of Wales	Pyle Life Centre, Bridgend

March and April

Attend photo opportunity to handover of ACW's Art Collection	National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
Launch Iaith Pawb – Early Years	Tiddleywinks Child Care Centre Ystalyfera
Opening of SIRIOL LTD Studios	Curran Road, Cardiff
Open mic session	Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini, Fleur de Lis, Blackwood
Launch Iaith Pawb – Voluntary Sector -	Cartref, Bontnewydd, nr Caernarfon
Announce Free Swim	Llangefni Swimming Pool, Ynys Mon
Visit Bangor Library (World Book day)	Book Council Wales, Bangor
Officially open the Old Bakery	Melin Llynnon, Llanddeusant, Ynys Môn
Officially Open the Re-creations Exhibition	Oriel Ynys Mon, Rhosmeirch, Llangefni
Launch 'How Active is Wales' National Science Week	Aberystwyth University
Speak at the Annual Newport Sports Awards	Newport Centre, Newport

Open International Women's Day Celebration	Old Library Cardiff
Attend Schools Dance Association	Sherman Theatre, Cardiff
Key Note Speech at The Welsh Library Association	Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells
Launch of Iaith Pawb – Business Sector :	Castell Duedraeth, Portmeirion Village, Portmeirion
Meet with President of Regional Council of Brittany	Aberdare Hall, Cardiff University
Visit Owain Glyndwr Centre	Owain Glyndwr Centre Machynlleth
Launch Iaith Pawb Business Breakfast Attend Valleys Business Club Organised by Menter Iaith	Glamorgan Uni, Pontypridd
Launch Welsh Football Academy	Cardiff City Football, Ninian Park
Oh What a Lovely War Performance Clwyd Theatre Cymru	New Theatre, Cardiff
Wales Outdoor Activities Awareness Forum	Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff
Launch Menter a Busnes awards	Menter a Busnes, Cardiff
Attend National Day Reception for St Patricks Day	Fitzalan Road, Cardiff
Attend Race Equality Council International Arts and Fashion Awareness Festival Mayor Opening Event	Patti Pavillion Swansea
Iaith Pawb: Pontyberem Language Action Plan	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth's Cafe in Pontyberem