



NO EMBARGO – TO BE PUBLISHED IMMEDIATELY

PRESS RELEASE:

GŴYL FACH Y FRO 2017 – THE BEST YET!

Menter Bro Morgannwg are very pleased to announce that the festival has grown substantially and attracted many more visitors once again to this year's event.

Over 6,500 people attended this free and inclusive festival which was held on Barry Island on Saturday – an increase of more than 100% compared to last year (3,000).

Gŵyl Fach y Fro included musical performances, dance and theatre, craft stalls selling local Welsh produce, Tomos & Lilford bar, food stalls, street entertainers, and a variety of arts and craft, circus and sports workshops. For the first time this year the event included a Bwrlwm Play Area, to celebrate the launch of our new open access play provision for primary aged children which will run during the summer holidays, and activities in this area included bubble bikes, disco bikes and creative workshops with Green City Events.

The line-up included some of the biggest names in the Welsh music scene – Bryn Fôn a'r Band, Candelas, HMS Morris, Eady Crawford, Band Nantgarw and Band Jazz Rhys Taylor – all of which were performing on Barry Island for the first time. Hundreds of local school children also took to the stage to perform throughout the afternoon.

Cllr John Thomas, Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, said: *"It was fantastic to see so many residents, and visitors, enjoying Gŵyl Fach Y Fro over the weekend. With the location, fantastic weather, the various stalls selling local Welsh produce and gifts, and Welsh-language activities, it provided a great example of what the Vale of Glamorgan has to offer."*

Meanwhile, Rob Thomas, Managing Director of the Council, said: *"The Council is very pleased to be working in partnership with Menter Bro Morgannwg to deliver such a successful event and it is particularly pleasing to see the event going from strength to strength."*

We are in the process of evaluating this year's event, and have created an online survey to collect feedback from those that attended. The survey can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GwylFachyFro17>

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www.menterbromorgannwg.cymru

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Notes

- *Gŵyl Fach y Fro is an annual festival established in 2015 by the Vale's Welsh language initiative, Menter Bro Morgannwg, to celebrate and raise the profile of the Welsh language across the Vale.*
- *Menter Bro Morgannwg's primary aim is to increase the social use of the Welsh language in the Vale, and create opportunities for the County's people to use the language outside school and work hours, and holding this all-inclusive event on the shores of Barry Island, which is such a popular attraction during the summer especially, is a very effective way of raising the profile of the Welsh language amongst citizens from the Vale and afar.*
- *Gŵyl Fach y Fro means 'Little Festival of the Vale' in Welsh.*
- *Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2017 was funded by Welsh Government, Wales Arts Centre, Big Lottery Fund and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.*

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