



Annual Report 2018

Foreword By The Chair

Welcome to Menter Bro Morgannwg's Annual Report for 2018.

It has been yet again another busy year, with Menter Bro Morgannwg providing a wide range of activities to promote and extend the social use of Welsh language in the Vale.

Menter Bro Morgannwg continues to provide activities for families, childcare during school holidays, sports clubs and events for adults.

The youngest children enjoy Amser Stori and Welly Walk sessions. The holiday care scheme for primary aged children is also a popular service, as well as the free Bwrlwm play sessions that were held across the Vale of Glamorgan during the summer holidays.

We are once again incredibly proud of the resounding success of Gŵyl Fach y Fro this year. Despite the wind and rain, thousands of people came to enjoy the musical entertainment and activities, and it's great to see so many school children take to the stage every year to perform. The aim now is to continue to develop the festival and to attract

an even wider audience. Gŵyl Fach y Fro is an important showcase for Menter Bro Morgannwg in its mission to engage with more people and normalise the use of Welsh language across the Vale's communities.

In order to plan new activities and extend what is already being offered, Menter Bro Morgannwg has recently consulted with the Vale's citizens to provide feedback and ideas for the future. The responses received in this consultation will be used to plan next year's programme.

I'd like to thank everyone for their support during 2018 – to everyone who has accessed our services, to our generous funders, sponsors and partners for their support and co-operation, to members of the Management Board, and above all, to Menter's officers for their tireless work behind the scenes.

Bring on 2019!

Gwenllian Grigg
Cadeirydd Menter Bro Morgannwg

Background

Menter Bro Morgannwg was established in January 2014, with the aim of promoting and extending the use of the Welsh language across the Vale of Glamorgan. Menter Bro Morgannwg is a Registered Charity (1179555) and Company Limited by Guarantee (8867706). We have 12 members on our Management Board who continue to scrutinise our work and provide a strong governing model to ensure that Menter Bro Morgannwg continues to thrive and maintain our services successfully. It is a comparatively new organisation with 1 full time member of staff, 1 part time and 4 members of staff helping with the work alongside their work for Menter Caerdydd.

The main aim of the Menter is to provide opportunities in Welsh which ensure valuable experiences and opportunities for children, young people and adults to develop their use of the Welsh language outside school and work hours. We interact regularly with our service users to ensure that the voice of the customer is key to the planning of our services for the future, and we aim to work in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and other Welsh speaking and non-Welsh speaking partners in the area to raise the status of the language within the County.

The existing Menter services reflect the needs of our customers; families, children, adults, learners and those who do not speak Welsh.. We are committed to ensuring that our work continues to reflect the needs of the Welsh communities and learners in the Vale and we have established a series of key performance indicators which will enable us to measure and control our performance accurately.

During the last year we have;

- Organised over 450 individual activities/events
- Engaged with over 9,000 service users
- Employed 28 occasional members of staff
- Worked with 30 partners across the third, public and private sectors

Menter Bro Morgannwg provides activities and events across core areas which include Families, Children and Young People and Adults.

Menter Bro Morgannwg's main funders are Welsh Government, the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Arts Council of Wales and Lottery Funds.

Officers

Manon Rees-O'Brien

Ffion Rhisiart

Jén Dafis

Leah Dafydd / Gwenno Roberts (maternity cover)

Llinos Williams / Lia Hawen

Nia Donnelly

Chief Executive

Development Officer

Community Officer

Childcare and Family Officer

Tafwyl Officers

Finance Officer

A number of Menter Bro Morgannwg staff are Menter Caerdydd's core staff sharing their time to create and support services in the Vale.

Menter Bro Morgannwg's Mission Statement

To promote and expand the use of the Welsh language on a community level in the Vale of Glamorgan, ensuring that the language becomes a central part of life in the Vale and that every citizen shares the responsibility for its future and success.



Partnership Work

Working in partnership is crucial in order to promote and raise the profile of the Welsh language across all communities within the Vale. Menter Bro Morgannwg has many key partners and will continue to work together to encompass Welsh Government's strategic priorities in reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

One of Menter's key partners and funders is the **Vale of Glamorgan Council**. We will continue to work in partnership, assist and support the Vale of Glamorgan Council to meet its statutory requirements of providing equal opportunities for citizens in the Vale to socialise in Welsh outside the classroom or work environment.

Menter Bro Morgannwg established and has Chaired the Vale of Glamorgan's **Welsh Language Forum** since 2013, to bring together organisations and associations operating in Welsh in the Vale, to discuss our work and explore opportunities for collaboration. The Vale's Welsh Language Forum includes representatives from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Cymraeg for Kids, Mudiad Meithrin, Learn Welsh the Vale, Cardiff and Vale College, Merched y Wawr, the County's Welsh-medium Schools and Local Societies. We will continue to meet regularly to share ideas and good practice, and projects such as **Clwb Ni** and **Gŵyl Fach y Fro** are great examples of how the Vale's Welsh

Language Forum members work well in partnership to create and develop services through the medium of Welsh for the Vale's citizens.

During 2018 we have developed our partnership with **Cardiff and Vale College** to provide a series of workshops during school holidays for children aged 7-11 years, which has included Netball Camps and Hair & Beauty Workshops. We are lucky to have access to great resources and the expertise of College staff to provide new recreational and social opportunities for children and young people in the Vale. The sessions are led by College lecturers – with assistance from students – and this is an important element of the project to show the progression and opportunities available to study, qualify and then continue to work through the medium of Welsh. We meet regularly with Nicola Buttle, the College's Welsh Curriculum Co-Ordinator, to coordinate projects and events to raise awareness of the Welsh language amongst staff and students. Menter Bro Morgannwg has a role to play in reinforcing the advantages of being bilingual to these students, and we are able to offer employment within our services to those who have Welsh language skills – for example in areas such as Childcare and Sports.

Activities For Families

Promoting the Welsh language amongst families and pre-school aged children are some of the main targets outlined in Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050: million Welsh speakers' strategy, therefore continuing to offer opportunities for families to take part in activities together is an important part of Menter's work.

Through our Framework Agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, we have provided:

- **4 weekly Amser Stori (Storytime)** sessions in partnership with the Vale's Libraries – with over 100 families attending over the last year. In September, we started a brand new session at Rhoose Community Library, with the aim of engaging with more young families over the next few months and develop more Welsh-medium provision in this area.
- **6 nature trails** at locations including Porthkerry Country Park, Penarth Beach, Cosmeston and Barry Island – with 30 families attending these sessions in 2018.

- **Family Weekend to Llangrannog** – a popular social event which provides a great opportunity for Welsh speaking and non-Welsh speaking families to get together for a weekend of fun. We organise this weekend in partnership with Menter Caerdydd, and it is great to welcome more and more families from the Vale each year.

During 2018, Menter has also supported the establishment of **Clwb Ni** – a weekly homework club in Barry which promotes more use of Welsh amongst families by providing a varied range of activities for children outside school hours, as well as support for parents to increase their linguistic skills and confidence to speak more Welsh with their children. The project has been funded by the National Centre for Learning Welsh and is led by Learn Welsh the Vale, however many of the Vale's Welsh Language Forum partners are also involved with the project, including Mudiad Meithrin and the Urdd.

“It's such a fantastic resource and is giving us the confidence to send our daughter to Welsh school. We're trying to learn Welsh as a family which would be impossible without all the opportunities and support.”

Activities For Adults

Menter Bro Morgannwg is committed to providing a variety of social opportunities for fluent Welsh speakers, less confident speakers and Welsh learners. Activities and events such as these are crucial to support and normalise the use of the Welsh language in a social context in communities across the Vale.

Through our Framework Agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, we have provided:

- **4 weekly Coffee Mornings** for Welsh Learners.
- **A monthly conversational session** at The Old Swan Inn (Llantwit Major). A second monthly session at The Park Hotel (Barry) started in October, with the aim of targeting less confident speakers and past pupils of local Welsh-medium schools and who are looking for more social and informal opportunities to re-engage with the language.
- **Yoga sessions** in various locations – Capel Bethel (Penarth), Memorial Hall (Barry), The Old Hall (Cowbridge) and Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

During 2018, we have also organised a series of **Gigs Bach y Fro** events, with a Comedy Night and musical evenings with Cleif Harpwood, Hana Evans and Bryn Fôn. We continue to run these gigs with support from the Night Out Scheme.



“You provide fantastic opportunities for learners of all ages to practise the Welsh language in a friendly environment.”

Activities For Children And Young People

With 2,500 children receiving their education through the medium of Welsh in the Vale of Glamorgan, the majority of whom come from bilingual or non-Welsh speaking homes, one of Menter's main aims is to provide an appealing programme of recreational activities through the medium of Welsh outside school hours.

Through our Framework Agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, we have provided:

- **10 weekly clubs** in partnership with the Urdd Sport Department. These include swimming clubs at Penarth Leisure Centre, Barry Leisure Centre and Hebron Hall, and gymnastics, athletics, netball and numerous multi-sports sessions after school. These clubs are run by experienced and qualified instructors, with over 200 children taking part in these leisure activities through the medium of Welsh every week.
- **9 weeks of Holiday Childcare** at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. This is the only full day childcare provision available through the medium of Welsh during school holidays in the Vale, and therefore provides an important service which allows parents to continue to work during school holiday periods

and for the children to continue to speak Welsh outside the school term. We continue to attract new families to the service, and have provided 952 childcare places during 2018, with an average of 22 children attending every day.

- **30 BWRLWM open access play sessions.** This is the second year running that we have provided free open access play sessions during the summer holidays, with morning and afternoon sessions held in various outdoor locations every day – Victoria Park (Barry), Bear Field (Cowbridge), Belle Vue Park (Penarth), Romilly Park (Barry) and Llantwit Major Rugby Club. This provision proved to be even more popular this year, with 337 children attending at least one session, and an average of 28 children attending every session.
- **Holiday workshops** in partnership with Cardiff and Vale College. During 2018 we have piloted a new programme of workshops during school holidays – which have included Hair & Beauty Workshops and Netball Camps. The response to this new provision has been good and we intend to develop new ideas and provide a wider range of workshops over the next year.



“As a full time working single parent it is vital for me to have safe and affordable childcare for my children. It is also important to me that my daughter continues to practice her Welsh during the summer break. I would be lost without this childcare provision.”

Welsh In Business

At the end of 2017 Menter Bro Morgannwg, in partnership with Mentrau Iaith Cymru and Menter Caerdydd, received funding to employ a new project officer to work closely with small to medium sized businesses in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. The project's aims are to develop contacts and new partnerships with local businesses by providing practical advice on how to introduce more Welsh into their businesses.

If you know of any local businesses who would like to receive support from our Welsh in Business Officer, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

CYMRAG Byd Busnes
In Business

Gŵyl Fach Y Fro 2018

Gŵyl Fach y Fro is the annual festival established by Menter Bro Morgannwg in 2015 to celebrate the use of the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan. The festival is held at Barry Island Promenade and now plays an important part in the Council's summer events calendar.

This year's Gŵyl Fach y Fro was held on the 16th of June 2018, and attracted an audience of 4,000 people. This is compared to 6,500 in 2017; the weather played its part however the feedback we have received from partners and people who attended is still very positive.

Gŵyl Fach y Fro is a partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors and it provides a platform for the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan. We as organisers are proud that so many of our partners work with us to make this event a success every year, and would like to thank all of the partners for their contributions.

In 2018 the main aims were to raise more awareness of the festival to attract new audiences, as well as to offer more activities for all ages and a more expansive musical line-up to create more of a festival atmosphere and keep people in the festival area for longer.

The highlights for Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2018 included:

- An increase in the number of activities, with 50 performances and workshops offered as part of the event.
- The establishment of a second performance area – the Acoustic Stage. We have received a great response to this increase and varied range of musical entertainment, and there is definitely potential to develop this area further over the next few years.
- A full programme of creative workshops with Green City Events, Cardiff Arts Collective, Alternative Events and Daisy's Dressing Up Box's unique photo booth.

- Street theatre by the talented 'Kitsh N Sync' performers – dressed as mermaids. These new street theatre elements worked very well to attract attention and make everyone smile with their energetic and unique performances.
- An increase in attendance last year meant that there were queues in the Food and Drink area, so by Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2018 we added one more hot food stall and one extra bar to try and meet this increase in demand. It is important to us to continue to work with local businesses and producers to provide a variety of food and drink. Catering this year's festival were Ffwrnes Pizza, Grazing Shed, Meat & Greek and Bay 5 Coffee, with Cavavan and Myfanwy the Tin Can Filly serving a variety of drinks and refreshments.
- The craft stalls were a popular addition in 2016, and we were glad to be able to increase the number of stalls once again this year. The stallholders in Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2018 were: Zac and Bella, Melys, Joey Bananas, Stwff, Tast Natur, Welsh Girl Problems, The Goodwash Company, Michael Goode, Bethan Cuddihy, Cymraeg for Kids, Mudiad Meithrin and Learn Welsh the Vale.
- As well as Menter Caerdydd staff who were there to assist with the running of the event, we also had 16 volunteers assisting us on the day to direct people towards the festival area and raise awareness of the event amongst the wider public by sharing information across the promenade.
- The event succeeded in attracting many more visitors to Barry Island, and by analysing the responses we have received to the evaluation survey, we estimate that up to a third of those who attended the festival had travelled from outside the Vale of Glamorgan.

"A great festival for the whole family, suitable for young children and parents can still enjoy. A lovely location."

"This is an excellent event, and it has developed spectacularly over its first four years – a huge asset to Welsh language and culture in the Vale."

