



MENTER BRO MORGANNWG ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Foreword

Welcome to Menter Bro Morgannwg's first Annual Report. It has been nearly a year and a half since a small group of us met to discuss establishing a new Welsh language initiative in the Vale of Glamorgan, after Menter Caerdydd received funding from Welsh Government to do so.

One of the most important elements of establishing a new Welsh language initiative is to secure firm roots through a strong Board presence. Menter Bro Morgannwg has over 17 Board Members that are eager to contribute towards raising the profile and use of the Welsh language in the Vale.

During this first and challenging year, I am happy to feed back that there have been numerous positive steps in regards to developing Welsh-medium activities in the Vale. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Welsh Government, The Big Lottery Fund and the Arts Council of Wales for funding new activities and projects that will contribute towards developing the Welsh language on a community basis in the Vale of Glamorgan. Over the last year, Menter Bro Morgannwg staff have also met regularly with the Vale Council Councillors and Senior Officers, to discuss investment in Welsh services.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ffion Rhisiart and Sian Lewis for their tireless efforts. I'm sure all their hard work will bear fruit in 2015!

Gwenllian Grigg
Chair, Menter Bro Morgannwg

Background

Following the Welsh Government's decision to abolish the Menter y Fro in January 2013, Menter Caerdydd secured the tender to develop and lead a project concerning the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan. Menter Caerdydd received a sum of £30,000 from the Welsh Government to begin the work of co-operating with local partners as well as the local authority, and to raise the profile and use of the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan. Menter Bro Morgannwg was consequently established and currently employs two members of staff.

In July 2013, we held a Needs Assessment to find out what social opportunities through the medium of Welsh were on offer in the Vale of Glamorgan, and to measure the demand for further activities. We received 532 responses over a period of less than three weeks, and the feedback gathered from the questionnaire clearly showed that there is poor provision of social opportunities in Welsh on offer in the Vale of Glamorgan, and that there is strong demand for more Welsh services and activities in the County. 88.7 % answered that they would like to see an increase in the Welsh language provision on offer in the Vale of Glamorgan.

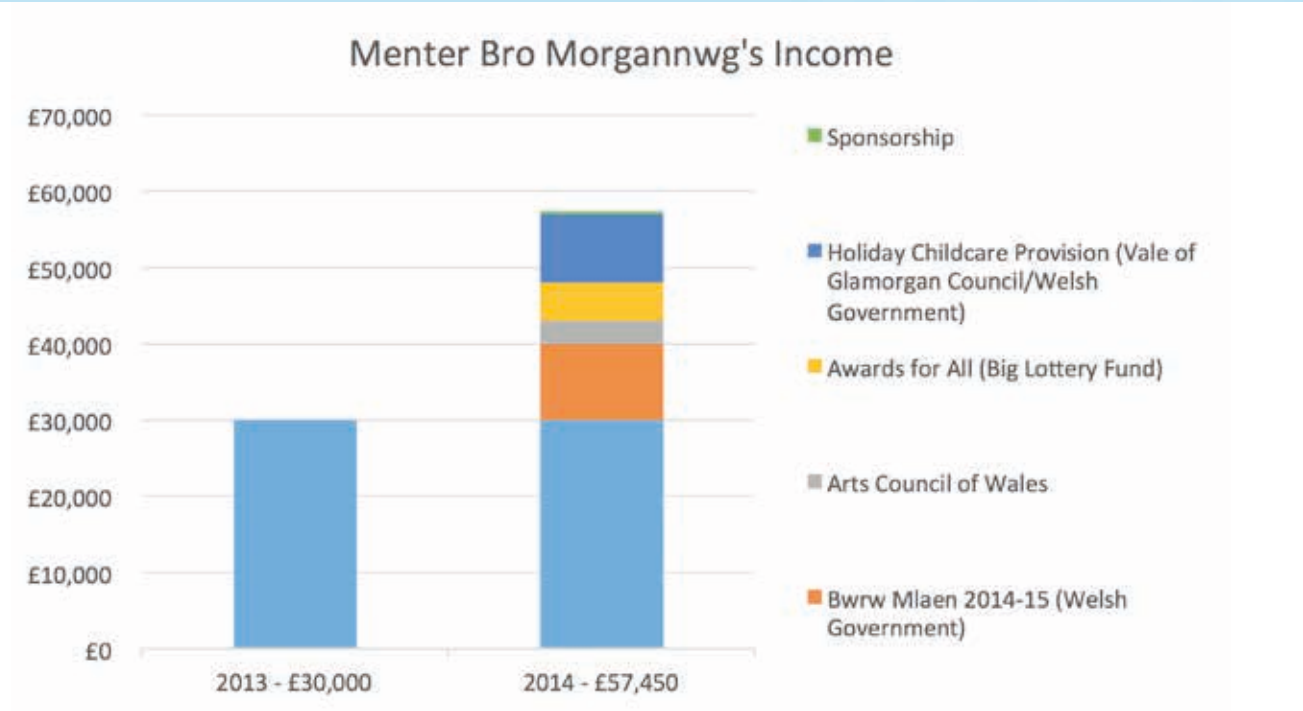
Officers

Siân Lewis
Ffion Rhisiart

Chief Executive
Development Officer

Income

We have seen an increase of 91.50% in Menter Bro Morgannwg’s income over the last year. We received another grant of £30,000 from Welsh Government for 2014-15, and the remaining income comes from applications for external funding. These grants are to develop and co-ordinate projects such as Gigs Bach y Fro, Family Activities and Welsh-medium Holiday Childcare Provision.



A New Partnership Between Menter Bro Morgannwg and the Glamorgan Gem

We received the last part of the Bwrw Mlaen 2014-15 grant to develop and raise the profile of the Welsh language across the County through the digital and print networks, by ensuring that Welsh content is given a fair representation in the local press. The Glamorgan Gem is the Vale’s biggest community paper, with 46,000 copies distributed to homes, workplaces and public places across the Vale on a weekly basis, and an electronic copy is also available to be viewed on their website.

Menter Bro Morgannwg are very pleased to develop this new partnership with the Glamorgan Gem, and we will be co-ordinating and publishing Welsh pages in the paper on the first Thursday of every month, starting from January 8th 2015.

Angharad

WYF, ddaid a'u dyddiau wrth y cyffwrdd... (Welsh text about a community event)

Gigs Bach Y Fro

CYFIRIOL... (Welsh text about a music festival)

MYFYRIWR O'R BONTFAEN YN LLYWYDD AR YR URDD

Yn ystod ymgydd... (Welsh text about a competition)

Ysgol Gyfun Y Bontfaen

Yn ystod ymgydd... (Welsh text about a school event)

E-chlysur

Yn ystod ymgydd... (Welsh text about a competition)

Cymdeithas Cymrodorion Y Barri

Yn ystod ymgydd... (Welsh text about a society event)

Nason Gomed

Yn ystod ymgydd... (Welsh text about a competition)

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Establishing a Management Board and Welsh Language Forum

During our initial year, we have established and led the Vale of Glamorgan Welsh Language Forum, to bring together organisations and associations operating through the Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan; to report back on their field of work, to share ideas about good practice and explore opportunities for collaboration. The Vale of Glamorgan’s Welsh Language Forum includes representatives from Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Merched y Wawr, Cardiff and the Vale College, WEA, Mudiad Meithrin, Welsh for Adults Centre, Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Welsh for Adults Co-ordinator, the County’s Schools and Representatives from Societies in the Vale.

A Management Board has also been formed within the last 18 months, which by now includes 17 members, 6 of whom are Directors of the Company. The role of the Management Board is to ensure that the salaried officers carry out their daily work, offering advice and support to ensure that Menter Bro Morgannwg officers are accountable for all public expenditure through the approval and supervision of financial control procedures. The Management Board meets 6 times a year to discuss Menter Bro Morgannwg’s latest developments.

Establishing a Website + Social Networks

Menter Bro Morgannwg’s brand new website was launched in July 2014 (menterbromorgannwg.org). The website includes information about Menter’s background and details of our latest work, as well as information about Welsh medium events and organisations that operate through the medium of Welsh in the Vale of Glamorgan. We have also established a presence across the social networks – we have over 450 followers on Twitter and Facebook, and these networks are an important and effective tool to promote, share pictures and Menter Bro Morgannwg’s latest news.





Gigs Bach Y Fro

We have received a Developing Audiences grant of £30,000 from the Arts Council of Wales to co-ordinate a series of 6 Welsh-medium social events across the Vale of Glamorgan. The programme includes a variety of gigs, comedy and literature evenings, which will be held in Penarth, Barry and Cowbridge in turn.

A spokesperson on behalf of the Arts Council of Wales said:

“We are very pleased to be able to support this initiative. This grant will allow Menter Bro Morgannwg to build on its existing work; to understand more about what people want, and in turn, to develop a varied programme in line with their community’s expectations.”

‘Gigs Bach y Fro’ was launched by Menter Bro Morgannwg in October, with a gig in the Windsor Arms in Penarth. Al Lewis and Kizzy Crawford proved extremely popular, with over 90 people attended, and the tickets were sold out before the evening had even started. We are extremely pleased that the project has started so promisingly, with citizens clearly eager to see regular events being organised locally, and we aim to build on this in 2015 and beyond.

Menter Bro Morgannwg works in partnership with Clwb Ifor Bach to co-ordinate the programme for Gigs Bach y Fro, and we would also like to acknowledge the support of BOOM Pictures Cymru, Barry Town Council, Penarth Town Council, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and Dinas Powys Community Council.

Bwrw Mlaen 2014-15

We succeeded in receiving £10,000 from Welsh Government’s Bwrw Mlaen 2014-15 fund, to support the establishment of Gigs Bach y Fro in its first year as well as to promote and raise awareness of the Welsh language across the County through digital and print mediums.

This extra funding has allowed us to expand on the programme for Gigs Bach y Fro in 2014-15, and means that we will be organising more events over the next year. We will work in partnership with Cwpwrdd Nansi to include traditional Welsh folk music evenings to the programme, and will organise a series of events for young people to give Sixth Form pupils the opportunity to engage with the Welsh language outside school hours.

More information about the marketing projects can be found in the sections below.

E-chlysur / Newsletter

As part of our Bwrw Mlaen 2014-15 project, we have appointed an officer who will work for Menter Bro Morgannwg occasionally in order to increase our e-chlysur database. This service has already been launched, with nearly 500 people receiving regular information through email about Welsh medium events in the Vale of Glamorgan. The e-chlysur is a great source to promote Welsh medium activities in the Vale, and is completely free of charge, therefore we are eager to develop the service further over the next few months. The officer will visit workplaces, societies, organisations, social groups, cylchoedd meithrin as well as the schools, with the target of increasing the database to a 1,000 recipients by the end of this campaign.

Welsh-medium Holiday Childcare Provision

During 2014, we have met with the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s Children’s Partnership Co-ordinator to discuss the possibility of establishing a regular Welsh-medium holiday childcare provision in the Vale of Glamorgan. After submitting a Business Plan and Application Form, we have had confirmation in December 2014 that we will receive £9,000 to establish this care provision from February 2015 half term onwards.

We will be providing a Care Scheme in Ysgol Nant Talwg during every school holiday (excluding Christmas), from Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5.30pm. This provision will be accessible and available to every child that attends Welsh-medium primary education. This will be a key service for parents who have to continue to work during school holidays, and with over 90% of children who attend Welsh-medium schools in the County coming from non-Welsh speaking homes, it will also give the children important opportunities to continue to practice and use their Welsh beyond the school term time.

We will be looking to employ 3 members of staff and will attract volunteers to assist with the running of this service.



Funding to Establish Family Activities in the Vale

We have secured a grant of £5,000 from the Big Lottery Fund to start developing a programme of activities in the Vale of Glamorgan for nursery-aged children and their families. With the recent increase in Welsh-medium education that has taken place in the Vale, and with 29.39% of children aged 3-15 speaking Welsh in the County according to the 2011 Census, there is a clear demand for this provision and it is crucial that children, young people and adults are given the opportunity to socialise as a family through the medium of Welsh.

The activities that will be organised as part of this project will vary from weekly courses for nursery aged children to events for the whole family, including weekly swimming lessons for babies and young children, weekly rugby and gymnastics club for children aged 3+, and play and craft sessions during school holidays. We will be working in partnership with the Urdd's Sport Department to deliver this programme, and the activities will start in March 2015.

Menter Bro Morgannwg and the Vale of Glamorgan Council

One of the specific targets that we have received from Welsh Government is to begin discussions with the Vale of Glamorgan Council on the possibilities of co-operating on numerous projects and possible matchfunding from the local authority. We have attended numerous meeting over the past year with representatives from the Council to discuss this further, with the aim of strengthening the Welsh language within the County.

We have also attended Forum meetings and contributed towards the process of drafting the WESP 2014-17 – a strategic document outlining and planning the use of the Welsh language within Education (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan).

In November 2014 we had a meeting with Councillor Christopher Elmore and Senior Officers within the Council. It was agreed at this meeting that the next step forward would be to look into re-distributing the pots within some key services' budgets (which include Leisure, Play and Events), to ensure that a fair distribution of funding is allocated to Welsh language services.

Following this meeting with Councillor Christopher Elmore, we have also agreed to quarterly meetings with the Councillor and Senior Officers to ensure that regular discussions take place regarding the Vale of Glamorgan Council's contribution to deliver Welsh-medium services and activities.

This is the first time that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has agreed to regular meetings with partners to discuss Welsh language services. This is a very positive step forward and we look forward to further developing our partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in 2015.