



newsletter

Issue 1, June 2007

Golygfa Gwydyr is a community based company formed in July 2004. Our aim is to inform on, and promote, inclusion in community projects and initiatives within the Gwydyr Forest and surrounding area. We also aim to act as one voice for residents of the Gwydyr Forest so that their needs and ambitions can be met. As a community company we do not distribute profit to members but use funds to support local community projects and enterprise.

Welcome

Welcome to the first in a series of newsletters produced by Golygfa Gwydyr for you. We hope to keep you up to date with ongoing projects, proposed projects and issues raised by you, the community we serve. We need to hear more from you about what services and information you want in relation to the Gwydyr Forest and surrounding areas. Do you live in the forest and need help, are you a local business serving resident and visitors to the area? Lets us know what we can do for local benefit. Use the contact details on page 2, drop into Menter Iaith, or visit our website (to be up and running by August) at www.golygfagwydyr.org. We always need local volunteers to help with our projects so use these contact details if you want to help and get involved.

Partnerships

We are members of the Conwy Rural Partnership, Wales Rural Forum, CVSC, Conwy Rural Community Network. We also receive support from Conwy County Council, Snowdonia National Park, Menter Nant Conwy and Menter Iaith. Currently much of our funding comes from grant aid but we are planning to become more self-sustaining over the next five years.

Golygfa Gwydyr has been gifted sole management rights to seven hectares of the Gwydyr Forest by the Forestry Commission Wales. We used this site, now called Caerdroia, for our first three arts projects which were based on the Caerdroia Sensory Labyrinth Theatre.

Caerdroia

We have been working with local young people at the site who have been maintaining the paths, producing art work for performances, and will be working on pond reclamation and building compost toilets.

We have now received funding to employ two local people in order to make the Caerdroia sustainable. We have an office at Menter Iaith and you can contact our employees there [details page 2]. We intend to branch out into education and environmental projects as well as continue with the arts. North Wales Stage are no longer involved with the Caerdroia productions but we are hoping to work with Cynefin to continue establishing community productions in the forest. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in performing or helping out please contact us.

Forthcoming attractions

July 25-26, 2007

The Greatest Adventures of Don Quixote –
Caerdroia Site - Gwydyr Forest
Open air theatre with Fools Gold Travelling Theatre Company– a chance for all the family to get out and enjoy woodlands, have a picnic and experience outdoor- walkabout theatre at its best.

Show starts at 7.00pm.

Park in Gwydyr Uchaf car park, taxis from there to Caerdroia starts 6.15pm. If you want to walk to the site allow 45 mins. Show duration about 2 hours.

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July 28, 2007

Taliesin Festival - Llyn Gierionydd, Llanrhychwyn. This event will not be advertised to the wider area as it has been designed to engage primarily with the local community within its specific locality - promoting pride of place and renewed community spirit. Funded by donations on the day to cover costs.

Start 10.00am

Drumming workshop - with Allen Collinson.

Procession by the lake.

Lunch 1.00pm - bring food and utensils for a communal lunch to share in the marquee. There will be an opportunity to hear some of Taliesin's poetry and some story telling after the traditional picnic.

At 2.00pm Arwest Gierionydd, following the tradition of the Arwests held in the early part of the twentieth century to celebrate the work of the Bard Gwilim Cowlyd. There will be poetry and music and Rhys Mwyn is organising a special memorial for Gwilim Cowlyd for part of this afternoon. Bright costumes with about 30 participants in all. End 4.00pm.

September 22-23, 2007

Gwyl Gwydyr Festival

Promoting North Wales' award winning Storytellers at the Caerdroia site in the Gwydyr Forest, Gwydyr Uchaf, and the Church, Gwydyr Chapel and Almshouses in Llanrwst.

A celebration of local stories related to the forest folk and farmers including legends of the locality – similar to Gwyl Chwedleu Dyffryn Conwy – March 2003

Sample Stories:

The Tale of Tomas the Beekeeper - who lived on the edge of the forest and made healing honey in the fourteenth century.

The Bishop of the Bath - who filled the pulpit in Chapel Gwydyr and was a great eater and womaniser.

Conwy Afanc and legends of Llewelyn and Siwan Tales from Y Mabinogi – second and fourth branches.

Lludd and Llefelys and the Tale of Maxen Wledig

Workshops

Facilitated by professional, recognised storytellers - this will be an exciting event for those interested in becoming a storyteller and keeping the storytelling tradition alive.

Schools

Workshop packages offered to local primary and secondary schools using traditional tales and the local landscape as stimulus for creative writing.

Contact us for more details.

Interested in any of the above or would like to join our group? - contact us!

We are particularly interested in using the forest site as an educational resource for schools, adult and vocational learning. If you work in a school or college and are interested in developing this resource please contact Roger Davies [see below].

Contact details:

Strategic development of Caerdroia

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