



Gorllewin Sir Gâr

Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr

Annual Report

2017-2018

Aims:

*Encourage and support
language, community and
economic development.*



Chairman's Foreword

This is my first year as chairperson and it's been another busy year for Menter. It has been a busy and successful period with a wide range of activities and projects run by the staff. You will find the bulk of the work in this report.

As with previous years we as trustees are indebted to the staff of the Menter. I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the hard work of the rest of the trustees. They all give their time voluntarily to ensure the smooth running of Menter.

The last twelve months have been a very successful time for Menter and we look forward to another twelve months of hard work and development as we seek to achieve our goal of increasing the use of Welsh within the family, with children and young people and the community in the West Carmarthenshire area.

We have been successful with a number of funding applications which meant that we have been able to expand the provision we offer to the community. This is not a decision taken lightly in the current climate. Our hope is to build on this success next year and further in the future.

We are also grateful as a Menter to our main funders, the Welsh Government, Carmarthenshire County Council, Big Lottery Fund, Volunteering Wales, Department of Work and Pensions and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development for their generous sponsorship and practical support.

Arwel Lloyd

Management Committee

Arwel Lloyd	Chairperson (since October '17)
Fioled Jones	Vice Chairperson (since October '17)
Dafydd Davies	Treasurer
Hazel Evans	
Meirion Jones	(Until October '17)
Bob Bright	
Ken Davies	
Dafydd Hughes	
Gareth Jones	
Myfanwy Jones	
Luned Thomas	

Staff

Dewi Snelson	Principle Officer
Denise Davies	Profi Development Officer
Gwawr Williams	Development Officer
Nia ap Tegwyn	Development Officer
Huw Lloyd	Digital Development Officer
Gareth Davies	Digital Development Officer
Meinir Evans	Profi Co-ordinator
Megan Lewis	Digital Development Officer
Carys Jones	Digital Development Officer
Emyr Hopkin	Digital Development Officer
Heledd Llwyd	Business Officer

New Staff 2018-2019

Sian Elin Williams	Development Officer (Since May '18)
Ceris Thomas	Development Officer (Since July '18)
Gwyneth Morris	Development Officer (Since August '18)

Families

1 The Menter's provision for families has continued to develop during the last year. Our aim is to create a pattern amongst families to socialise naturally and regularly through the medium of Welsh. The opportunities we offer are varied so as to appeal to as many families as possible. Examples of the provision on offer include language and play sessions for children and their parents in primary schools, regular story sessions, Christmas activities, Cylch Meithrin Sports Days and Family Fun Days. During the year 118 activities | sessions offered through the medium of Welsh were arranged and enjoyed by 5,970.

- A parents comments about Diwrnod Shwmae Sumae fun morning. 'Neli has enjoyed today, enjoyed making crafts and singing with Sali Mali. Thank you for organising a family fun morning'.
- 'The story sessions are a fantastic way of introducing Welsh to my daughter in a good and fun way!'
- 'Thank you for organising the language and play sessions, not only for Elis to familiarise himself with the school but for me as a mother to meet other mothers in a Welsh environment before September'.
- 'The weekly session 'Amser Stori a Chân' that's held in Carmarthen Library on a Monday is very successful with the public. It offers a safe environment and a good opportunity for non Welsh speaking parents to learn and use the Welsh language with their children. It's also an opportunity to familiarise themselves with being in a library and borrowing books and developing essential skills'.
- A cylch leader said 'What a beautiful morning, with the sun joining in the fun of the nursery sports this year and everyone enjoying the opportunity of competing and more importantly to mix with other cyloedd. Thank you for organising again this year'.



Over 5,970 have attended and benefitted from the activities offered to families during the year.

Children and Young People

We continue to offer a variety of activities for children and young people. It is essential that they have the opportunities to socialise and use their Welsh outside the classroom. Our provision for this target group varies so that activities appeal to the younger ones as well as to those that are older. The activities on offer include quizzes, street dancing, various sporting activities, photography club, drama clubs, Welsh Language Awareness Sessions and fun eisteddfodau. It is essential that high quality provisions are offered for this age range and the Menter works hard to attract young people, in order to ensure their commitment to activities. During the year we have been busy and have organised 256 events/sessions with 3,5958 children and young people attending.

- Megan really did enjoy her experience with the club, Megan enjoys sports activities, and I was surprised how much she enjoyed the drama club, Megan can be shy, and I feel that the club has really helped with her confidence and to participate in front of other children. Thank you'.
- My child really enjoys attending these football sessions. It's a great opportunity to keep fit, learn new skills and socialise. It's essential that these sessions are held through the medium of Welsh – it would be very difficult for my child to understand instructions in English.
- 'She doesn't participate in any other out of school activities in Welsh so these sessions are great!'
- Welsh language awareness sessions were held for young people in secondary schools and 93% noted that they enjoyed the session while 90% said they'd learnt something new. One pupils commented "I'm now aware of the importance of the Welsh language in the workplace."
- 'Lili has enjoyed the opportunity of being part of the Drama Club and after the first session, she couldn't wait to go again. In the past, Lili hasn't been very eager to attend activities outside school but has enjoyed the drama sessions and is eager to be part of future performances. Thank you for holding these sessions through the medium of Welsh, there is no other choice available in the town.



Over 3,500 children and young people have used the Welsh Language by attending or taking part in events and activities offered by the Menter during the year.

Welsh Speaking Communities

Ensuring thriving Welsh Communities is an integral part of the Menter's work. It's essential that activities are offered on a regular basis across the geographic area of the Menter and that varied activities are offered that appeal to a wide range of residents. Examples of our activities and events include social evenings, Yoga and Zumba sessions, regular sessions for Welsh learners to practice in an informal setting, co-ordinating the Welsh page and weekly column of the Carmarthen Journal, as well as co-ordinating performance stages in numerous events across the area. Having two offices at Newcastle Emlyn and Carmarthen enables local people to see us as a first point of contact if they require assistance or advice regarding the Welsh language which shows that the Menter has a good relationship with the community. We have arranged 92 activities in the last year and more than 5,200 have taken advantage of and enjoyed the provision.

- 'I'm very thankful for Menter's Clwb Clecs, I get to hear interesting presentations monthly and to meet new learners and to develop at my own pace, diolch Menter'.
- 'The school has performed in Newcastle Emlyn Food Festival since the beginning and It's a great experience for the children to get involved in the community and without this stage, we wouldn't perform outside school therefore we are thankful for this annual opportunity.
- 'We've had a lovely morning at the Christmas Fair – an opportunity to shop for locally made gifts and presents and for the children to talk to Father Christmas.
- 'Thank you for organising the yoga sessions by Laura Karadog – a relaxing weekly session where I can have time for myself which is so important to everyone these days. A fantastic teacher. I'm looking forward to the next term'.



@Mentergsg



@MenterGSG



Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr

Through our work in this field, over 5,200 residents have had the opportunity to attend and use their Welsh at tens of events and activities in their local community. We also estimate that 30,000 people have had additional opportunities to read Welsh and to see local news about Welsh medium events and activities through our work.

Mentrau Iaith Cymru and Mentrau Sir Gâr

Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr is part of the Mentrau Iaith Cymru network. There are 22 Welsh Language Initiatives active in Wales. Nationally, the Mentrau employ over 300, as well as part-time and other occasional opportunities. The Mentrau work with around 1,000 volunteers and organise over 4,700 activities each year with over 160,000 people taking part. Securing over £ 6.4m per annum to provide various services.

The Menter is also part of Mentrau Sir Gâr, which is a partnership between the three language initiatives located in Carmarthenshire Menter Bro Dinefwr, Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr and Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli. The partnership jointly apply for funding to run specific county projects and share information and good practice.



Digital Inclusion

During the 2017-18 financial year Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr continued to deliver contracts for Jobcentre Plus to work with the unemployed to help them develop digital skills, create emails, online accounts to search for jobs, CVs and to help them search for and apply for jobs.

Whilst the contracts for the Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion areas were extended, there was a gap in provision whilst awaiting a decision regarding the renewal of the agreements. The Menter also won new contracts in the Neath, Port Talbot and Swansea areas. To deliver the new contracts three additional staff members were employed bringing the total number of staff on the digital team to five.

Individual sessions were provided in locations including Cardigan, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, Llanelli, Ammanford, Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot. Library facilities were used at all of the locations apart from Swansea where the sessions were held at the Job Centre. During the year almost 1,000 individuals attended the various sessions across the area.

It is also good to report that the Menter has received new contracts to continue with the provision in the current areas where it is working.

The Menter has also been successful with a bid for funding to the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 fund to implement a new digital project in Carmarthenshire. The aim of the initiative will be to offer a complete package of support and information to members of the public to develop their digital skills and confidence to a level that will enable them to use information technology equipment to access various services.

Digital sessions to support unemployed people were provided in eight locations across four counties. The number of individuals supported was almost 1,000.

Profi

Our aims:

- To develop young people's employability skills and increase their confidence in the work place;
- To increase the awareness of the Welsh Language in the workplace;
- To strengthen local organisations' capacity;
- To support local regeneration through encouraging local spend.



Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr has been awarded a Big Lottery People's and Places Fund grant of £203,000 over a period of three years to develop the work of the Profi Programme. Thus, enabling a further 750 young people to be offered support to improve their employability skills and more businesses to be recruited to offer work experience placements and rewards.

Increase awareness of the Welsh Language in the workplace

Feedback by young people

More young people need to be aware of the information and opportunities available from having Welsh Language Skills

That 75% of the world's population are bilingual

Finding out why there's been a decrease and an increase in the number of Welsh speakers

I have learnt a lot about the Welsh Language

That a lot of the world's population is bilingual 75%



342 of year 12 pupils have registered for support with the Profi Programme with 459 attending Welsh Language Awareness sessions, 137 received support to create a CV, 312 have benefitted from mentoring sessions and 231 have attended work experience. In addition 98 have secured part time work. We have recruited 24 businesses | organisations to offer a reward for young people for taking part in the programme.

Partnerships

The Menter has links with a wide range of groups, organisations and institutions and amongst the ones that the Menter has worked with are:

Mudiad Meithrin	Merched y Wawr
Cymraeg i blant	Yr Atom
Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli	Menter Bro Dinefwr
Menter Iaith Sir Benfro	Cered
Mentrau Iaith Cymru	Carmarthenshire County Council
Welsh Government	Carmarthenshire Young Farmers Clubs
Hywel Dda Centre	Yr Urdd
Local businesses	Town and Community Councils
Papurau Bro	Primary and secondary schools
The Powerhouse, Pont Tyweli	National Wool Museum
Carmarthen Journal	DWP
Family Centres	Mentrau Sir Gâr
Libraries	Yr Egin
Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru	Coleg Sir Gâr
Say Something in Welsh	Yr Hen Ysgol, Llanfihangel ar Arth
Newcastle Emlyn Food Festival	
South-West Wales Welsh for Adults Centre	County Rural Development Plan Officers
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	



Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr

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Yr Atom, 18 Stryd Y Brenin, Caerfyrddin, Sir Gâr, SA31 1BN.

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