

Minutes Bala and Penllyn Tourism Association
Plas yn Dre
Wednesday 16th October 2013. 7pm.

Attending: David Mitchell, Jack Reeves, Ray Hind-Treasurer, Melanie Williams-Chair, Lindsay Hind, Katrina Le Saux-Secretary, Hazel Price, Hugh Price, David Llewellyn, Dorothy Evans-Town Councillor, Stephanie Hickish, Toby Hickish, Peter Cottee.

Apologies: Olwen Davies, Megan Wyn, Suzanne Bailey, Ros Rhodes, Sioned Llewellyn.

Melanie Williams welcomed those in attendance.
Chairman's Report was presented (please scroll down)
Ray Hind presented the Treasurer's Report (see attachment).

Katrina Le Saux presented a report regarding the current news on Neuadd Buddug. Mel and Katrina attended a meeting on 16th September, held by Gwynedd Council, to discuss options for the future of the building and 'The Arts' in Bala.

The building is under threat of closure with no secured alternative. The option of providing a facility within the grounds of Ysgol y Berwyn remains 'an option'. There is no guarantee of adequate funding being available and the time scale under discussion is for 2016-2017. It was suggested that a group be formed 'Friends of Neuadd Buddug'. Please get in touch with Katrina if you would be interested in being part of this group. Minutes from the meeting are available from Katrina. Mel and Katrina will be attending the next meeting on November 12th at The Leisure Centre.

Earlier in the day Ray, Mel and Katrina attended a 'Walk about Bala' organised by Councillor Dilwyn Morgan. A small amount of money has become available for town improvements and following a walk around the town a list of suggestions was made. It was disappointing that there were no representatives from either the Town Council or The Business Group. But we still had plenty to suggest. This is an ongoing project.

Hazel Price, Katrina Le Saux and Peter Cottee presented the plans for celebrating
Dydd Gwyl Dewi 1st March 2014.

Hazel had put together a wonderful power point presentation which showed images of the Town from the early 19th Century. Trees have always been a significant feature. Hazel had managed to create images of what the trees could look like once wrapped.

The plan is to bring all the various business groups, committees, clubs and organisations together to decorate the trees, in the colours of the Welsh Flag, for 1st March.

Please see the attached sheet for details.

If you would like to take part, help, or provide materials please let Katrina know as soon as possible.

Bala Tourism Association will be wrapping the tree outside HSBC as they already sponsor that flower bed. It would be lovely if the trees reflected the organisation that is wrapping it. Ours,

therefore, should be covered with Tegi's (except he's green and yellow and we should be sticking to the colours of the Welsh flag).

Over the next few weeks the presentation will be shown to various organisations and trees will be allocated. John Lewis have already indicated that they would like to be involved.

Help will be needed to publicise this event.

Peter Cottee then gave a talk about the Association's plans for attempting The Guinness Book of Records for the largest Welsh cake. This will also take place on 1st March. Again volunteers are required. Andrew Roberts, Headmaster of Ysgol y Berwyn, and Michael Williams are heading the team which will make the equipment to cook the beast. It will weigh 20kg and have a diameter of roughly six feet. Lindsay Hind and Peter Cottee are leading the team calculating ingredients and supervising the cooking.

That evening there will be a concert in Neuadd Buddug;

Cenhedloedd Dan Ddyfroedd/Dammed Nations is a music tour featuring traditional Nubian frame drummers NubaNour from Egypt alongside Welsh singer/harpist Siân James and singer/songwriter Gai Toms for what promises to be enchanting and engaging evening of music and poetry from Wales and Nubia.

If anyone has the energy to arrange artists to exhibit in Canolfan Bro Tegid do let me know.

We want as much as possible to be happening to attract large numbers of visitors.

Any Other Business

Late Night Shopping will take place on 5th December. Bala Tourism Association are to have a stall to publicise the events for 1st March.

David Llewellyn attended and was welcomed as the original Chairman of the Bala and Penllyn Tourism Association. He entertained the group with a lively talk. Firstly discussing possible benefits to tourism of publicizing historical sightings of The Tegi Monster. Then voicing concerns that Bala is unsupported in it's various attempts at attracting tourism by: Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park.

It was suggested that a representative from Snowdonia National Park be asked to be guest speaker at our AGM. They could then explain their policy for promoting our lovely area.

A presentation on 'Go Bala was cancelled because of lack of time. However, you can see the progress made at: www.GoBala.org

AGM will take place on Tuesday 28th January.

Time and details to be decided.

The meeting was brought to a close at 21.05hrs.

Cymdeithas Twristiaeth Y Bala a Phenllyn Tourism Association
Chairman's Report
16:10:2013

In this economic climate your committee have been committed to working on the community links to raise the profile of our tourism industry showing the quality and diversity of what we have to offer our visitors and residents alike.

The 'Experience Bala & Penllyn' grant that took much hard work in securing was brought about by partnership working with Gwynedd Council, Partneriaeth Penllyn, Bala Business Group and the Town Council. Together we came up with the vision of producing a set of trails for the Bala and Penllyn area which could be expanded over time to encourage our visitors to enjoy a longer stay in the area. This work has been forging ahead at a pace through the hard work of Ray Hind who has devoted himself to this project. The trails can be walking, cycling, canoeing, all ability, historical, nature, children's, car or even a paper trail! The quality of this project has to be seen to be believed and this evening Ray will show you the work so far. We have huge thanks to give to our body of volunteers, including:

- Hazel Price - the quality of this project has been hugely enhanced by the willingness of Hazel who has done the photography.
- Bill Spalding who has allowed us to use some of his excellent photos.
- Dinah has provided superb wildlife sketches for our wildlife guide and Bill Taylor who has advised on the wildlife in the area.
- Translators and in some cases providers of local information include: Penri Jones, Gareth Griffiths, Tomos Edwards, Elfyn Pritchard, Dorothei Evans, Alun Price and Dilwyn Morgan.

Charlotte Green, my niece, has also designed 'Tegi Bach' for us to use as we wish to promote children's activities in the town. The Tegi Bach treasure hunt is already a success encouraging parents and children into the town centre shops. Once the children have solved an anagram it takes them to our TIC where the children are presented with a sticker and a certificate.

Your Secretary Katrina and I have been invited to be part of the community group looking at the future of Neuadd Buddug. Katrina will fill us in on this during the meeting.

This afternoon your committee are walking around the town with Cllr Dilwyn Morgan to look at aspects of improving the town centre. A small pot of money has been found to do some work. We shall feed back during the meeting.

Earlier this year I secured a grant from Gwynedd Council to provide new notice boards for the town. These have already proved invaluable in guiding our visitors to the TIC. We have received great feedback on the updated look of the boards. The lockable notice board is outside Ria's shop and she has taken on the role of key holder should you wish to place a poster in there.

To finish a bit of great news. Bryniau Golau recently received a 'Cesar Award' from the Good Hotel Guide, winning 'Welsh Guest House of the Year'. It was also voted second in The Sunday Times 'Ultimate 100 British Hotels' under the B&B category. Katrina was interviewed on BBC Wales where she promoted the beauty of the area and described Bala Tourism Association's plans for 1st March 2014; a 'Tree Wrap' and the Guinness Book of Records challenge for the world's largest Welsh Cake.

Treasurer's Report

Based on the last statement, the bank balance is £4,668. This year the income from membership was £2,115. Recent expenditure was renewal of the Snowdonia Mountains & Coast advert (£300).

Potential Commitments:

- Experience Gwynedd grant contribution (£1,466).
- Experience Gwynedd extra work & printing (2,100)
- Website hosting, marketing, membership 2014 (circa £1,000).
- Possible grant matched funding (£1,000)