

**URDD NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD
PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR, TAF AC ELÁI 2017**



What is the Urdd National Eisteddfod ?

The Urdd National Eisteddfod is the annual festival organised by the Urdd youth movement and is the largest youth festival in Europe. The Urdd National Eisteddfod is a cultural arts festival where Urdd members compete in 400 numerous competitions, in various aspects of singing, dancing, recitation, arts and crafts, technology, science, cookery, literature, etc. All competitions commence at the local Urdd Eisteddfod.

After winning in the local Urdd Eisteddfod, competitors proceed to the regional Eisteddfod and the winners in the region compete at the Urdd National Eisteddfod itself. Numerous competitions do not need a knowledge of the Welsh language and there are also specific competitions for Welsh learners in some sections.

The Urdd National Eisteddfod attracts up to 100,000 visitors to the six day event and 15,000 competitors. Children and young people from all over Wales and beyond, compete and benefit from the Urdd National Eisteddfod – at a local, regional and finally at a national level.

Where is the Urdd National Eisteddfod held ?

The Eisteddfod is a peripatetic event traditionally alternating between south and north Wales, and in 2017 it will be held in the Bridgend, Taf and Ely region. Bridgend County Borough Council will be the host authority.

Will children and young people from your area benefit ?

Urdd members from all over Wales compete in the Urdd National Eisteddfod by winning their way through the local and regional eisteddfodau. The Urdd has local branches in villages, towns and schools in every part of Wales, and the majority of the branches compete annually in the Urdd Eisteddfod. The Urdd National Eisteddfod is open to all Urdd members, and children from this area will compete in the Urdd Eisteddfod.

What is the Urdd?

The aim of the Urdd is to ensure that all the young people of Wales (between the ages of 8 and 25) are given the opportunity, through the medium of Welsh, to develop into rounded individuals; and to empower them to play a constructive role in the community, by encouraging personal and social skills. This is fulfilled by the ideal of services to Wales, to fellow-man and to Christ.

Established in 1922, the Urdd is the main youth movement in Wales, with over 50,000 members all over the country.

The Urdd Eisteddfod is only one element of a variety of different aspects of the Urdd movement, which includes three multi activity and residential centres – Glan-Ilyn, Llangrannog and in the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff – over 1,500 local Urdd branches in villages, towns and the cities all over Wales, and publishes three monthly magazines for Welsh speakers and learners.

Are volunteers involved ?

The Urdd movement is a registered charity and voluntary organisation. It is based on volunteer work and it depends on volunteers from all over Wales to stage different Urdd events within their communities. The Eisteddfod is no exception and all eisteddfodau from the local, regional to the Urdd National Eisteddfod itself, depend on volunteers to organise and administer the events and the national festival.

Why do we apply for grants from local councils from all over Wales ?

As the Urdd Eisteddfod is a national festival, we appeal to councils in all tiers of local government to support the event. Any grant aid will contribute to the overall costs of staging the Urdd National Eisteddfod, and any contribution will be appreciated immensely.

The Urdd National Eisteddfod receives funding from numerous sources – both public and private – including from ticket sales, sponsorship deals, broadcasting, exhibition fees and local fundraising.

We have set up a network of local appeal committees throughout the area to organise fundraising and awareness raising events. The local fund raising effort is a vital element of our funding as it accounts for approximately 15% of the total cost of staging the Eisteddfod.

Partnerships ?

The Urdd National Eisteddfod is a series of partnerships between different institutions and organisations. The Eisteddfod is dependent on support both practical and financially from individuals, organisations, schools, public bodies and local councils throughout Wales. With the support of our partners, we can successfully stage the largest youth festival in Europe.

We are eager to encourage schools from both the English medium and Welsh medium sectors to participate in the Eisteddfod and to feel an 'ownership' of the event. There will be a number of opportunities to take part in awareness and fund raising activities prior to the Eisteddfod.

There will be a primary school musical/show performed in the Pavilion on the Eisteddfod 'Maes' and a secondary school show as well as numerous other opportunities for pupils and schools/colleges to become involved.

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The event in 2017 will be held on the land at Bridgend College, Pencoed Campus during Whitsun half term 29 May - 03 June 2017. An Opening Concert, Primary Schools Show and a Youth Show will be held during the week.

Around 200 stalls and exhibitions will be on the Maes (festival site) including an Arts and Crafts Pavilion, Pentre Mistar Urdd, a Science and Technology Pavilion and many more activities.

The Urdd National Eisteddfod attracts visitors from all over Wales, both Welsh speakers and non-welsh speakers alike. It is a festival to celebrate the talents of the children and youth of Wales and is broadcast live on both television and radio.

The Eisteddfod Proclamation Event will be held within the county on Saturday 15th October 2016. There will be a procession and entertainment in order to celebrate the fact that the Eisteddfod is coming to the Bridgend, Taf and Ely region.

How is the Urdd National Eisteddfod Administered ?

The Urdd National Eisteddfod has a team of full time Urdd staff members based in the Glan-llyn office near Bala. The Eisteddfod is administered by local and national committees with volunteer representatives from all over Wales overseen by the Eisteddfod and the Arts Board along with the Urdd National Council.

Aled Siôn - Eisteddfod Director

Morys Gruffydd - Eisteddfod Organiser

www.urdd.cymru/eisteddfod