

## Cheers All Round

From its lowly beginnings in a cowshed last May, micro-brewery **Cwrw Llŷn** is going from strength to strength. Production has trebled and the company has now moved to larger premises in Nefyn. Plans are also underway for a new Heritage Centre to tell the story of brewing in Wales, from the Bronze Age to the present day.

Cwrw Llŷn was the brainchild of a group of twelve friends who got together to form a co-operative. One of the twelve is celebrated Welsh poet Myrddin ap Dafydd, at whose home in Llwyndyrys the first Cwrw Llŷn beer was brewed. Says Myrddin: "Archaeologists have discovered that the oldest brewery in Wales was at Porth Neigwl - about 10 miles from Llwyndyrys. There is a fascinating history to beer making in the area and we want to tell this at a heritage centre we are hoping to build, along with a new micro brewery, a kiln and a visitor centre."



Three of the co-operative members are farmers, one of whom has had his barley crops tested and assessed as perfect for beer production. This, it is hoped, will enable the group to brew a truly local pint. Already their beers 'Brenin Enlli' and 'Seithenyn' are proving popular with local pubs and hotels; hence the increased demand for the high quality product.

Cwrw Llyn, recent winner of the Group of the Year category in the 2011 Gwynedd Taste & Talent Awards, received funding to develop their Nefyn micro brewery from the Rural Development Plan for Wales' 'Llwyddo yng Ngwynedd' Local Products Scheme, co-ordinated by Gwynedd Council on behalf of Gwynedd Economic Partnership. They also received support from Cywain, another RDP-funded project, set up to add value to agricultural produce.

For further information visit: [www.cynnyrchgwynedd.co.uk](http://www.cynnyrchgwynedd.co.uk) or contact **Mirain Gwyn** on **01766 514057**

## St David's Day Launch



There was added cause for celebration on St David's Day, Thursday March 1st. It marked the official project launch of **Elevate Cymru**, a new and exciting North Wales Network of work based learning programmes. The aim is to bring measurable improvements to micro, small, or medium sized businesses through training that is completely *free of charge*.

Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Welsh Government, was on hand to open the proceedings and Sarah Ellwood, Managing Director of Supertemps, proved an inspirational guest speaker. Sarah is a passionate believer in initiatives that empower employees to develop work-based skills.

During the launch event at Bangor University's JP Hall, taster workshops were offered on a number of topics including:

- Visual Merchandising: The most effective way to increase sales
- The Modern Manager: Get more out of your workforce
- Creativity, Culture & Change: Essential skills to grow your company
- IT Toolkit: The engine driver of a successful business

Elevate Cymru is part of the Work Based Learning programme, funded by the Convergence European Social Fund. It offers a comprehensive range of accredited courses aimed at up-skilling employees' knowledge. These are to be delivered through four University led networks covering the convergence areas of Wales.

For further information go to [www.elevatecymru.co.uk](http://www.elevatecymru.co.uk)

## “10d for a hundred herrings”

Penrhyndeudraeth editor and proofreader Sue Walton has secured a fascinating and unusual commission. She has been asked to transcribe the first volume of the handwritten diaries of William Bulkeley, an eighteenth century gentleman farmer from Anglesey.

William Bulkeley lived at Brynddu, Llanfechell, and his diaries cover the periods from 1734–43 and 1747–60. They are kept in the Bangor University archive and each page has been photographed. The diaries are full of information about the weather, farming and wildlife, making them a valuable resource for naturalists and scientists, particularly given the current concerns about climate change. Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd, a society formed in honour of the great Welsh naturalist and antiquary, commissioned the work and will be making the environmental observations available on its Llên Natur website ([www.llennatur.com](http://www.llennatur.com)).

Said Sue: “Bulkeley comments on many aspects of his life and his community. Many of his purchases are fascinating: for example, on 17 September 1751 he bought 100 herrings for 10d (10 old pence, approximately 4p). Even converted to today’s buying power, this is only about £3.60!”

Sue’s company **Sue Proof** provides editing, proofreading and translation services, and Duncan Brown of Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd commented: “Sue Proof presented a very strong and professional bid among stiff competition.”

Funds to carry out the transcription of the first volume have been secured from the Isle of Anglesey County Council’s Sustainable Development Fund (SDF), Bangor University, and from within Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd.

Contact: **Sue Proof** on **01766 771 502**  
[www.sueproof.co.uk](http://www.sueproof.co.uk)



## Setting a Course for Success

**Boatshed North Wales**, the used yacht brokerage based in Pwllheli Marine Centre, has been awarded the prestigious Boatshed Broker of the Year award at a ceremony in Excel London in January 2012. This honour recognizes increased sales, outstanding customer service, business development and growth, and excellent business relationships in the local community.



The Boatshed North Wales team collecting their award, left to right: Mandy Chapman, co-founder of Boatshed.com; Mandy Wood, Andy Wood, Andrew Topham and Caroline Topham, owners of Boatshed North Wales.

Said Andrew Topham, owner of Boatshed North Wales: “We are thrilled to have been presented this award. Despite the harsh economic climate we’ve sold more than one hundred boats over the last nine months, to clients from all over the UK and Europe. We have a very experienced team, covering all the marinas in North Wales, who work extremely hard. Every boat we have for sale has been inspected and appraised by one of our brokers and we take up to 80 photos of every yacht. Our website has a comprehensive set of details and images so buyers have all the information they need.

“Hafan Pwllheli is a fantastic sailing area with brilliant facilities. I hope that recent incentives to berth holders and a commitment to dredge the Marina will encourage more people to keep their boats here.”

Boatshed North Wales is part of Boatshed.com, the largest group of international yacht brokers. The group comprises 54 independently owned offices throughout the UK and around the world, and has over 450,000 registered subscribers. In 2011 it sold more than £28 million pounds worth of yachts. A member of the British Marine Federation, Boatshed North Wales operates under its codes and practices and is committed to customer satisfaction.

Contact: **01758 701595**  
or visit: <http://northwales.boatshed.com>

## Managing Equality and Diversity in the Workplace

Founded nearly twenty years ago, **Chwarae Teg** is the leading professional agency for the economic development of women in Wales. Now the organisation is helping small and medium enterprises in North Wales manage diversity for business success. Via the Evolve programme, Chwarae Teg is offering advice and practical support that promotes the effectiveness of a diversity strategy in the workplace. The programme starts with a free workshop that explains the impact of the 2010 Equality act on businesses. The benefits of flexible and remote working are explained and, after the workshop, employers will be able to access a range of support specifically tailored to their businesses.

Says Susie Ventris-Field, Senior Project Officer: "To date, we have worked with over thirty businesses in North Wales, including Outlook Expeditions in Parc Menai and Anheddau Cyf in Bangor. We cover a range of topics related to diversity, including developing in-house equality training and setting up remote working facilities".

Anheddau Cyf, the non-profit social care provider, has only good words for Chwarae Teg. Anheddau's chief executive, Janetta Toleman Jones, says: "The whole organisation is on board with every aspect of the project. It's invigorating to see the enthusiasm of the participants and how they are transferring this back to the workplace."

The Evolve programme is part of the £12.5m European Social Fund and Welsh Government funded Agile Nation project aimed at businesses in the convergence areas of Wales.

To book workshops on 15th May or 25th July, contact **01492 514237** or **susie@chwaraeteg.com**.



Staff at Outlook Expeditions are enjoying the benefits of remote working.

## European Expansion for Local Company



Porthmadog based company **CCI** have announced the opening of a new overseas office in Faro, Portugal. Established for over twenty-five years, the company specializes in providing debt recovery services for both the public and private sectors.

Carl Hackman, Director, says: "We are delighted to announce further expansion and aim to offer a professional, fast and effective service. We have made a significant investment, in terms of both people and operational infrastructure, to ensure that the very highest standards are adhered to."

CCI have worked with many organisations helping clients support their existing recovery processes. Able to take full control of the debt function or assist in supporting an existing structure, the aim of the new office is to offer the same support as in the UK, ensuring debt collection ratios are increased and the customer is always put first. There are currently fifty-one employees at the Porthmadog head office and the company is part of the GCS network with over ninety international partners.

[www.ccilegal.co.uk](http://www.ccilegal.co.uk)

## GBN Gala Dinner

Be sure to leave Thursday, 17th of May free in your diary. This is the night of the **Gwynedd Business Week Gala Dinner**, which will be held this year at the Management Centre, Bangor. Further details will be circulated in the run-up to the event.

## New Venture Aims to Beat Recession by Promoting Snowdonia Products

A new initiative with a difference has been launched in Dolgellau by three local business women. Committed to bringing crafts made in the Snowdonia area to the forefront of the 'British Made' design movement, 'grug' is named after the Welsh word for "heather" and comprises a retail studio, online shop, workshops and market stall. Its aim is to showcase original, high-quality products with a contemporary edge and sixteen of the area's most talented craft-makers have already joined the initiative. These include creators of handmade bags and jewellery, baskets, textiles, ceramics and slate art. Also represented are the makers of woodwork and furniture, artisan chocolates and aromatherapy products, collectable bears and personalised greeting cards.



Founding partners Jenifer Brenner, Helen Sutcliffe and Debra Harris first began planning the venture in the summer of 2011 and since then have been overwhelmed by the response from both makers and customers alike. Helen, herself a local craftsperson, stated: "We all share a passion for the wonderful crafts produced by the incredibly talented people living in this area and wanted to create a vehicle to help promote their work more extensively. Debra and Jen both have blue-chip marketing backgrounds so we wanted to combine my experience with their knowledge of retailing and marketing to give local makers a strong head start."

Jenifer added: "Visitors to 'grug' can meet the producers, buy craft related books and attend demonstrations, workshops, craft clubs and other special events."

Working collectively, the makers plan to share shop-keeping and order-processing duties in order to make the rent affordable and keep prices accessible to the local market. Says Debra: "Although we hope to become a destination for visitors to Snowdonia and to target international markets through our online business, our raison d'être is to support the local economy by creating commercial opportunities for these small businesses."

Anyone interested in becoming a 'grug' member should contact Helen, Jenifer or Debra on **01341 421719** or by emailing [info@grugstudio.com](mailto:info@grugstudio.com)

## New Facilities in the Pipeline at GreenWood

An £88,000 grant from Visit Wales is welcome news for **GreenWood Forest Park** this Spring. The grant will enable the existing exhibition area in the Great Hall to be redeveloped into an indoor play area, scheduled to open in June. Plans currently being drawn up to facilitate the upgrade will also include a new café and associated retail area to be opened in time for the Easter break.

This is not the only good news for the award-winning attraction, set up in 1993. GreenWood owners Stephen and Andrea Bristow are delighted to have been given the Rural Wales Award by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales. Stephen commented: "It is a great honour to receive this award. We have always tried to combine an interesting and fun day out with careful management of the environment. The hard work and enthusiasm of the staff have made this possible."



The award, to be presented in June, recognizes the positive impact that GreenWood has had on the countryside, the community and the local economy.

[www.greenwoodforestpark.co.uk](http://www.greenwoodforestpark.co.uk)

## Olympic Recognition for Biking Project

A Dolgellau based project has developed a series of mountain bike rides for disabled riders which has achieved the London 2012 Olympic 'Inspire Mark'. The 'Momentum Rides' are part of '**Challenge your Boundaries**', a community based initiative located at the Coed y Brenin mountain bike trail centre.

Discover Dolgellau initiated the 'Challenge your Boundaries' project in late October 2011. It provides equipment, coaching and leadership, with a view to enable riders with disabilities to make at least semi-independent journeys. The rides are free to riders with their own equipment, or 'Challenge your Boundaries' adaptive mountain bikes (aMTBs) are available to rent. Participants will need to go through an accreditation process before they are able to take out bikes unaccompanied. Prior booking is essential; as places are limited a booking fee will be taken and refunded on the day for all those who attend.

The London 2012 Inspire programme recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Seb Coe, Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, said: "The 'Challenge your Boundaries' Momentum Rides 2012 are encouraging disabled riders to fulfil their potential. I am proud that with the help of partners such as Discover Dolgellau we are delivering our vision to use the power of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to boost participation in adaptive mountain biking."

The 'Challenge your Boundaries' project is a partnership with the Snowdonia National Park, Sport Wales, Disability Sport Wales and Forestry Commission Wales.

Forthcoming events are to be posted on:

[www.facebook.com/challengeyourboundaries](http://www.facebook.com/challengeyourboundaries)



## Very Special Offer for Members



Hot on the heels of receiving a Five Star Gold Award from Visit Wales, **Plas Dinas Country House** has even more good news to share, in the form of an exclusive offer to GBN Members. A "Special Corporate Package" comprising Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, plus wine, is available for the equally special price of just £125.00 per night. The offer will entitle members to a sumptuous two-course meal, plus two glasses of wine, followed by one night's stay in a Superior Room, with a delicious breakfast in the morning.

There's also cause for more celebration at Plas: the hotel has just had a full listing in the Good Hotel Guide 2012. Says co-host Andy Banner-Price: "We have been on the Guide's "shortlist" for the last four years as the Editors wait until they have plenty of independent reviews from their readers before they will upgrade you to the main part of the book. Thanks to anyone who took the time to review us."

The Gold Award from Visit Wales is given to those extra special places that offer "outstanding quality, exceptional comfort and hospitality". This places Plas Dinas in the top 5% of all accommodation providers in Wales. The Hotel is situated at Bontnewydd, just outside Caernarfon and was once the country home of the Armstrong-Jones family.

Booking Conditions: Quote "Gwynedd Business Network". Accommodation must be made at least seven days in advance and bookings are subject to a forty-eight hour cancellation period. Meals are available Tuesday to Saturday and the offer cannot be used in conjunction with any others, is subject to availability and may be amended or withdrawn at any time.

Contact Tel: **01286 830214** Email: [info@plasdinas.co.uk](mailto:info@plasdinas.co.uk) Web: [www.plasdinas.co.uk](http://www.plasdinas.co.uk)



# In Brief

## South Wales Firm Opens New Office in Bangor

Business efficiency specialists **Principality Consulting Limited** has appointed David Lloyd Williams of Bangor to help the Ebbw Vale-based firm deliver on existing contracts in Gwynedd and develop new business across North Wales. Both a Chartered Engineer and Chartered IT Professional, David's background spans the manufacturing, software and administrative industries. He has worked in both the public and private sector, in small companies through to large multinationals.



Principality Consulting's managing director Martin Seymour, said: "David's experience in business improvement and efficiency projects underpinned by technology is a key appointment for Principality as we press ahead with our growth plans. Firms may be able to access this high level of expertise under the Welsh Government E-Business programme."

Qualifying businesses will receive a 100% grant funded initial ICT diagnostic, with the possibility of further heavily subsidised consultancy to aid in the implementation of business improvement measures. Please visit [www.PrincipalityConsulting.com](http://www.PrincipalityConsulting.com) for further information.

## New Web-based Promotion for Gwynedd Businesses

A new website has been set up offering businesses in Gwynedd the opportunity to promote their facilities and services. **Gwynedd Lleol** (Gwynedd Local) is designed to showcase the quality and variety of businesses in the county.



Gavin Wyn Roberts, whose brainchild Gwynedd Lleol is, says: "To help businesses gain that extra web presence, I have included two options for listings: a basic and a premium package. To demonstrate our commitment to the region, we will be donating 10% of the advertising costs to local charities."

For more information visit: [www.gwynedd-local.com](http://www.gwynedd-local.com)

## Y Dyfodol – One Year On

**Y Dyfodol** (The Future), a three year £7.5m scheme to help over 5,000 workers in North Wales gain new skills, has just completed its first year. The scheme offers company training needs analysis as well as sector specific training and development for staff.

To date, more than 900 employees from over 500 companies have started their training. One such company is Dolgellau's Crossroads Supporting People Ltd, a residential Care Home which provides personal care for adults with learning difficulties. Staff have completed courses which include Food Safety, Fire Safety, Emergency First Aid and Managing Safety (IOSH).

Mark Wiseman, Manager at Crossroads, says: "The support received under the scheme has been fantastic. Y Dyfodol has helped us with affordable and accessible training."

Led by Coleg Llandrillo Cymru, Y Dyfodol is a partnership scheme with Coleg Menai, Deeside College and Coleg Harlech.

[www.dyfodol.co.uk](http://www.dyfodol.co.uk)

## Any Comments

We hope you have enjoyed this, our latest Gwynedd Business Network Newsletter. We would greatly appreciate your input. If you have any comments, or ideas on ways in which we can improve it, then please don't hesitate to let us know. E-mail Editor Jacquie Knowles on: [Jacquie.Knowles@btconnect.com](mailto:Jacquie.Knowles@btconnect.com) To join or to find out more about the Network visit: [www.gwyneddbusnes.net](http://www.gwyneddbusnes.net)



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