

Gwynedd Business Week 2011

The sixth annual Gwynedd Business Week will take place throughout the county from the 23 to the 27 May 2011. 12 individual events have been planned, culminating in the Gwynedd Business Awards ceremony at the Galeri, Caernarfon on Thursday evening 26th May.

The annual event is an attempt to encourage businesses to get together to exchange ideas, get informed and face the challenges of doing business from and within Gwynedd. It has the support of Gwynedd Council, and this year's main sponsor is Bangor University. Magnox, HSBC, Hunaniaith, Software Alliance Wales, Tourism Partnership Mid Wales and Tourism Partnership North Wales have also lent their support to the week's programme of events.

This year events include a business breakfast, how to tender workshops, a Let's Talk Business seminar day, a green business workshop, a networking event inside the Electric Mountain and even a Snowdonia business trek.

Councillor Dyfed Edwards, leader of Cyngor Gwynedd, said, "Gwynedd Business Week is a fantastic opportunity to promote and celebrate the vast array of successful businesses operating throughout the county. Now in its sixth year, it has become a firm favourite in the Gwynedd business calendar. A series of events will be on offer throughout the county, with networking opportunities and practical help and advice on offer."

The week's events will reach a climax on the Thursday evening when the winners of this year's Gwynedd Business Awards will be announced at a gala dinner to be held at the Galeri in Caernarfon. For full details of all the events taking place as part of Gwynedd Business Week, and to register for individual events, go to the website www.gwyneddbusinessweek.co.uk or phone 01286 685 254.



Agoriad Achieves 'IIP' Gold



Agoriad Cyf is thrilled to be awarded the 'Investors in People' Gold status. The Bangor based organisation is a leader in the development of employment possibilities for disabled and disadvantaged people in North and Mid-Wales. The standard is awarded to organisations that demonstrate a commitment to the learning and development of their employees and achieve best practice in people management.

Agoriad Cyf was established in 1992. As well as providing training and employment, the organisation operates three social enterprises in Bethesda, Aberffraw, and Dinas Mawddwy.

"We are delighted to receive this recognition", said Chief Executive, Arthur Beechey. "Agoriad relies on its team to make a real difference in local communities by helping disadvantaged people into the work place."

Commenting on Agoriad's success, Jacquie Owen, Senior Business Skills Development Manager of the Welsh Assembly, said: "The award of Gold Status represents achievement of world-class best practice, and shows you are a truly cutting-edge organisation operating at the highest levels of people management practice."



This latest accolade adds to other recent successes, namely Post-16 Accreditation through the Welsh Assembly for delivery of Essential Skills, National Training Award Wales Winners for Training & Development and for Education and Training.

Cadwaladers Keeps on Expanding

Cadwaladers Ice Cream continues to develop and expand from its Gwynedd base. Their latest outlet, opened on Boxing Day 2010, occupies a prime position next door to Legoland in the prestigious Barton Square, part of Manchester's Trafford Centre. The site is ideal for Cadwaladers' customer profile, its location and size making it especially attractive to affluent shoppers and young families enjoying a day out in this premier retail centre.

The expansion of Cadwaladers has seen three new shops beside the Trafford Centre outlet open over the last five years: Trentham, near Stoke; The Red Dragon Centre, Cardiff Bay; and the St David's Centre in Cardiff. There have also been substantial refurbishments to the company's flagship shop in Criccieth. Their next project will see a major redevelopment of the Mermaid Quay shop in Cardiff Bay this winter.



The company is also currently engaged in a rebranding exercise to distinctively reflect its various strengths. Ice cream remains at the core of the brand; however, sales of drinks and food now account for over 45% of turnover. For this reason the company logo is being adapted to incorporate the wording: "Coffee and Ice Cream Café" besides the distinctive "C Cone" roundel.

Throughout its expansion programme Cadwaladers has remained loyal to its Gwynedd roots and makes every effort to maintain its business relationships in the area. All its coffee and tea supplies, milk for ice cream manufacture, frozen produce supplies plus bespoke cakes and gateaux continue to be sourced in north Wales.



www.cadwaladersicecream.co.uk

Inigo Jones Celebrates 150 Years

Friday 4th March marked a very important day in the long history of Inigo Jones Slate Works in Groeslon. Friends and local dignitaries gathered to celebrate 150 years of slate production at the family run firm. Alun Fred Jones AM, Minister for Heritage, was on hand to unveil a special commemorative plaque. He warmly congratulated company director John Lloyd on his achievement and also commended John's significant contribution to the tourism industry in North Wales.

John commented:

"The longevity of the company is due to the versatility and quality of the product. This is depicted in our new exhibition which shows the history of the company and the wide range of our products. As a tourist attraction we are pleased to welcome visitors to our superb showroom which showcases how 500 million year old slate can be transformed for today's discerning and sophisticated customers."



Inigo Jones Slate Works was founded in 1861 primarily to prefabricate school writing slates. When these were replaced by paper the company diversified into new products and started producing electrical panels in slate. The world famous Queen Mary, Mauretania and the Queen Elizabeth luxury liners were all fitted from the Tudor slate works. The company rapidly expanded, and went on to make fireplaces, often enamelled and hand painted, sourcing its slate from the whole of North Wales.

A core product throughout the years has been slate memorials. More recently the company has supplied slate for domestic use including flooring, kitchen worktops and hearths. Visitors to Inigo Jones can also enjoy a self-guided tour of the works which includes letter-cutting, archaeological and calligraphy displays.

Tel: 01286 830242 Fax: 01286 831247
Email: info@inigojones.co.uk

Gwynedd companies take advantage of LEAD Wales



Eighteen Gwynedd companies are set to take advantage of a ground-breaking new leadership and training initiative at **Bangor University**. LEAD Wales is an innovative programme to encourage business growth and the personal development of the owner-manager. It aims to provide a framework for businesses to increase profitability, enable diversification and support business expansion. There is no cost to delegates to participate in the scheme.

The £8 million LEAD (Leading enterprise and development) Wales programme integrates active teaching with action learning, encouraging participants to share knowledge and experience with their peers and to apply what they learn to their own business situation. Each ten-month work programme comprises a "cohort" of up to 24 owner-managers investing two days of their time per month. Each is offered support from academics, the cohort Group Development Leaders, experienced mentors and external coaching professionals. Key elements include: masterclasses, coaching, exchanges, and an on-line forum.

LEAD Wales is designed to meet the specific needs of the owner-manager of a small or medium sized business or social enterprise that has traded for at least two years and employs a minimum of four staff. There is no requirement for any formal qualifications. It is anticipated that within two to three years of completing the programme, tangible benefits will accrue for participating organisations such as increased employment opportunities, productivity and profits.

The overall target over the next five years is to help develop 240 businesses in the convergence region of North Wales and the programme is being delivered by Swansea University in South Wales with support from Bangor University for delivery in North Wales.

To find out more e-mail: lead@bangor.ac.uk or contact the LEAD Wales team at Bangor University: 01248 382497



Royalty Returns to Plas Dinas

Some 35 years since Princess Margaret was a regular visitor to **Plas Dinas Country House**, her great nephew, Prince William, attended a lunch there in early January. The three course lunch cooked by proprietor-chef Andy Banner-Price was served in the 400 year old Gun Room.

Andy & his partner Julian have been running Plas Dinas since November 2006 and despite having no formal background in hospitality or catering have made a huge success of the business building an excellent reputation and a strong base of repeat customers. Andy & Julian hope that now Prince William lives on Anglesey this will be the first of many times the house will be used to host royalty.

Graded as 5 star, Plas Dinas is set 1/3 mile down its own drive and is very private, making it ideal for confidential meetings or a celebrity stop over. The Gun Room seats 16 and the Dining Room seats up to 26.

For more details: www.plasdinas.co.uk

Members enjoying a social event

The Big Xmas Business Bash - sponsored by Gwynedd Business Network, Anglesey Business Club and Bangor Business Club. A charity raffle raised almost £900 which was shared between Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team and Anglesey RNLI. Thanks to those who donated prizes - the Management Centre (who also arranged the party); Waitrose; W H Smith; The Body Shop; Go For It Sports Shop, Bangor; Inigo Jones and Griffith Williams & Co Chartered Accountants.



'Opening Doors' to the Future

A successful lottery bid from GISDA has secured a grant of £289,075 from the Big Lottery Fund for a new initiative. The Opening Doors Project will fund challenging and interesting activities such as sailing, youth exchanges and specialist courses for GISDA service users, as well as offering units accredited through Agored Cymru. GISDA, a Caernarfon based registered charity, offers an opportunity for young people to live independently. It provides a support service for those between the ages of 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.



In addition, the Opening Doors Project will include an impartial mediation service, which offers help and support to identify the best ways for service users to re-engage with their families and have the benefit of family support networks. The funding is a fantastic boost for GISDA who hope to start on the project this spring.

GISDA was founded in 1985 by a group of volunteers in the Caernarfon area as a response to the growing problem of youth homelessness in the town and the prejudices young people faced when seeking help and support. In 1989, in partnership with Cymdeithas Tai Eryri, GISDA opened its first hostel in Caernarfon for 8 young people. It currently employs over 30 members of staff and offers supported accommodation for 56 young people across Gwynedd.

www.gisda.org

Small Business Gets Louder Voice

Welsh Assembly Government Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones has outlined plans to create a dedicated advisory group to represent the needs of small businesses to the Assembly.

The new SME (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises) advisory group will be made up of representatives from umbrella bodies that represent the sector, and may also include representatives from SMEs themselves. It will be an informal body that will meet quarterly. Representatives will not be paid for their participation, but reasonable costs will be reimbursed. Details of how to get involved will be announced in due course.

Atebion Recruitment – 20 years old!

Celebrating its twentieth anniversary, Bangor based Atebion Recruitment has used versatility and cutting-edge technology to grow into a true north Wales success story.

Having now filled thousands of job vacancies, Atebion started back in 1991 with the provision of accredited training and supply of staff to local employers. The employment side expanded rapidly, with automated systems and the in-house development of software speeding the entire recruitment process. The first Agency in Wales to have a bi-lingual website, Atebion still advertises jobs in both Welsh and English and is one of the only Agencies to do so. Originally specialising in the supply of bi-lingual office staff, the company now works in diverse sectors including IT, management, consultancy, engineering and accountancy.

Gill Richards, co-owner with Lorraine Roberts, says:

"We took a gamble to open our business in a recession and we have seen many changes over the years. Typewriters have given way to computers, the home pc is commonplace and texts and e-mails are a part of everyday life."

"We have a fantastic Team, great temps, and loyal customers. Despite the current climate there is steady demand from private businesses. Our long experience and local knowledge give us the edge in meeting future challenges."

atebion
Recruitment Ltd

www.atebion.co.uk

About the Network

The network is an association of business owners and operators in Gwynedd formed in 2005 to provide a forum for all businesses in the County to:

- Network and inter-trade
- Communicate with other sectors (public and academic)
- Identify, progress, and resolve issues facing businesses in the area.

A company limited by guarantee, our board of seven directors all work on a voluntary basis.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or publicise a news item or event, please email admin@gwyneddbusnes.net. All items for publication must be bi-lingual – Welsh and English.

Become a Member

Membership is open to all businesses in Gwynedd, at no cost. You can register through our website www.gwyneddbusnes.net. Though you can access the network without formally registering we encourage you to do so. You will then be able to access all areas of the website, including the list of members and receive regular email and newsletters updating you on events, meetings and business information.

Busy Times for Media Hotshot

CREAD Cyf, based in CAST, Parc Menai, is a design and media company with an impressive portfolio and wide-ranging client list. 2010 was a remarkably busy year for the rapidly expanding organisation with projects extending across TV and radio production, to brochure and website design, and corporate branding. Among CREAD's more notable success stories in recent months have been two BBC Radio Wales documentary series. First aired in November of last year, "The Quarrymen" was presented by Rhun ap Iorwerth and examined the lives of Welsh slate quarrymen and their families. "The Community That Saved the Farm" was broadcast in February and told the remarkable story of how a north Wales community set out to buy and rescue a farm threatened with closure after the 2001 foot and mouth crisis. More documentary work has already been commissioned and will be on air within the next twelve months.

Email: stephen@creadcyf.co.uk / Website: www.creadcyf.co.uk



Y Dyfodol – the Future of Private Sector Training

Eligible companies and their employees could benefit from a new European funded project aimed at developing the skills of those employed in the private sector in north west Wales. Available across the [Coleg Llandrillo Cymru](#) network of sites, Y Dyfodol – Skills in Employment is a scheme which will provide subsidised training for employers and employees. [Coleg Menai](#) and [Coleg Harlech](#) are two of the network partners with Coleg Llandrillo, as lead body, and Deeside College also taking part.

For a one-off participation fee of £50 per employee, a range of courses will be available across the College network including NVQs and short courses in areas such as Retail, Care, Renewables and Hospitality. The scheme and its component elements will offer staff the chance to develop their skills and gain relevant qualifications within the workplace.

A team of professional, dedicated tutors with substantial industry experience in their chosen fields are committed to providing quality, flexible and affordable training specifically designed to meet the needs of business and industry. Business Development Advisors and IT Specialists are available to visit your organisation free of charge to discuss your training needs.

The Business Solutions Centre (BSC) employer network support group was launched in 2009. For more details on membership or on any of the above please contact: Gillian Bradshaw or Janice Johnson on: [0845 450 59 60](tel:08454505960) or visit the website: www.llandrillo.ac.uk/businesspoint



Survey Results Helps Tailor Business Support

Gwynedd Council will be able to focus business support for the local economy thanks to the findings of a recent survey. The results of the county-wide review, conducted by the Council's Research and Information Unit and Business Support Unit, will help officers gauge the current local economic climate.

Nearly 300 businesses took part in the poll during October and November 2010 and it is hoped that their involvement will also promote Gwynedd Council's on-line Business Directory which currently has approximately 1,200 local businesses registered. The Council now has the latest data on the business sector's opinions on important issues such as terms of employment, training, recruitment and business growth.

Gwynedd Council will be conducting another survey to coincide with Gwynedd Business Week 2011, 23-27 May.

Full results at: www.gwynedd.gov.uk/research

Loans for Gwynedd Businesses

A new Local Loans Fund, solely for SMEs in the county, has just been established by Gwynedd Council which could provide a real economic boost. Loans will be between £25,000 and £100,000 with an opportunity to apply for larger asset backed amounts where there is clear evidence that financial assistance is required to develop or extend the business.

As part of its strategy, Gwynedd Council published, 'Responding to the Recession', in May 2009 which included a programme of plans and interventions to support the economy in a time of uncertainty. One of the plans was to consider options for establishing a new Local Loans Fund. Work was commissioned to further investigate this possibility and the establishment of the new Fund was approved by the Council's Board in November 2010. The purposes of loan support are business creation, restructuring, development or expansion.

Contact the Business Support Team on: 01286 679778
or: business@gwynedd.gov.uk

Are You a Launcher or a Lounger?

A brand new digital media platform has just been launched to help give Gwynedd businesses a promotional boost. Via a website, Launch Lounge gives organisations the opportunity to create anticipation during the run-up to a launch and coverage of the event itself. Free access is available to businesses and the voluntary sector to showcase their launches with the optional opportunity to include additional promotional offers such as 'giveaways' or discounts. 'Launchers' can sign up to run their campaigns for a period of ten months. 'Loungers' are visitors to the site who can be made aware of new products, services or events being launched and take advantage of the available offers.

Launch Lounge site administrator, Nina Menichino explains:

"Our intention is to drive traffic to the site so we'll be using other digital and print channels to promote both the site and launches on them - it's a win-win scenario for those taking part, particularly as there is currently no charge to use this online marketing service."

Launch Lounge has been part-funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

For more information visit: www.launchlounge.com

To start 'launching', sign up using the access code: GWYN01.

For more information contact: nina@launchlounge.com

About the Network



Gwynedd Business Network is a forum for businesses operating in the county. Via a series of regular formal and informal events, its primary aim is to provide opportunities for networking and inter-trading. It also enables members to promote their goods and services and to source local suppliers. Acting as a platform for participants to voice opinions and concerns, it provides a crucial resource to influence economic policy and change. Frequent e-bulletins inform of business events, new legislation, and training opportunities and provide links to business support organisations. Part of the ethos of GBN is to share instances of best practice and experiences of running a business. The Network is a company limited by guarantee and has seven Directors on its Board. Membership is free and members are encouraged to include the GBN logo on their stationery and websites. To register or obtain artwork for the logo visit: www.gwyneddbusnes.net

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