

Abergavenny Eisteddfod - Last chance to enter

The deadline for entries to the Abergavenny Eisteddfod on 18 June is fast approaching. Performers – adults and children - need to send their forms in by 21 May. Entry is free of charge and most competitions are open to anyone, whether they are local or not.

This year's competitions include sight reading, solo jazz and pop music, creating your own 5-minute drama and disco and folk dance. Budding or semi-professional singers, actors and instrumentalists are all welcome, and can perform in Welsh, English or both.

Entries can be made through schools, online at www.abergavennyeisteddfod.co.uk or via programmes available through local libraries, music shops and leisure centres.

First woman chaired bard to adjudicate in 10th Abergavenny Eisteddfod

Mererid Hopwood, who made history in 2001 by becoming the first woman ever to win the Chair at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, is to adjudicate the Welsh language adult literary competitions at the tenth anniversary of the Abergavenny Eisteddfod this year.



Although Mererid was brought up in Cardiff, she feels an affinity for the Abergavenny area: her grandparents lived in Govilon for several years, where her grandfather was a minister at the chapel in Llanwenarth, and she herself has visited the area in the past to talk to the Cymreigyddion, Abergavenny's Welsh society.

Other Eisteddfod adjudicators for the adult competitions include Dr Lyn Davies, of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, mezzo soprano Menai Davies and local writer Linda Ruhemann, a senior lecturer in English and Creative Writing at Newport University.

Adjudicators for the children's and young people's competitions this year include Abergavenny poet and author Jane Blank, former head teacher Anne Smith and dance teacher Emma Carlton.

“We’re very lucky to attract such high quality adjudicators for all our competitions” said Ceri Thomas, Abergavenny Eisteddfod Chair, “Both young people and adult competitors appreciate having expert advice on their performances or literary efforts – it’s one of the benefits we can offer them, to help them improve year on year.”

The Abergavenny Eisteddfod takes place on 18 June, and entries need to be in by 21 May. Visit www.abergavennyeisteddfod.co.uk for more information.