

Abergavenny EISTEDDFOD Y Fenni



Abergavenny Eisteddfod celebrates its fifth anniversary

The fifth modern day Abergavenny Eisteddfod takes place on Saturday 17 June. Resurrected in 2002, the Abergavenny Eisteddfod was once one of the most important cultural events in Wales. In the mid 19th century, competitors came from all over Europe, attracted by generous sponsorship from supporters including the renowned Lady Llanover, local patron of harpists and bards.

Nowadays, adult performers from all over Wales and England come to Abergavenny hoping to reach the finals at the Borough Theatre in the evening. As befits an event held in a Monmouthshire border town, the proceedings are bilingual. Non-Welsh speakers then also have the opportunity to enjoy a concert-type evening with singers and instrumentalists ranging from students at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to previous National Eisteddfod winners.

During the day, the children's Eisteddfod is held at the local comprehensive school, King Henry VIII School. Children from the local community, and from as far as Swansea, Cardiff and Pembrokeshire, compete for medals and cash prizes. The children's polished performances in the finals on stage are a tribute to the enthusiasm of music and drama teachers at schools and clubs in the area.

In all, over 500 entries for the art, literature and stage competitions have been received. "We're in for a treat" said Eisteddfod Chairman, Ceri Thomas. "The standard of performance for the whole day promises to be excellent, with young starts of the future jostling for position with established, semi-professional performers."

Tickets for the evening competitions and concert cost £5.00 for adults (free for children) from Abergavenny Borough Theatre (01873 850805). They also allow entry into the daytime competitions at King Henry VIII School. Entry tickets into the daytime Eisteddfod only cost £2.00 for adults, and can be obtained on the day. More information is available from www.abergavennyeisteddfod.co.uk or 01873 850379.

Ceri Thomas
ceri-thomas@lineone.net 01873 850379
11.6.06