



# Bay of Life Watch



## June Edition

### Business and Education - Development Update Exciting news from around the region - Events and Activities

Please send your contributions/features for the newsletter by the 25th of each month.  
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Welcome to the 'Bay of Life Watch' Newsletter, produced by Swansea Bay Futures which aims to bring you interesting and exciting business, education and development news from around the Swansea Bay region.

### Supported by...



## Business and Education

### Insurance giant's admirable 300 job boost for city

Almost 300 new jobs have been created in Swansea by insurance giant Admiral in the first half of 2010. The firm has hired 218 new staff at its offices in SA1 since January and plans to take on a further 80 by the end of June. Admiral serves more than two million customers and decided to boost its staff numbers to cope with demand. Its branches in Cardiff and Newport have seen staff numbers increase this year but the largest volume of new recruits has gone to its operation in Swansea. The firm currently employs 1,272 staff in its Swansea office and continues to offer at least £3,000 worth of shares in the company to each member of staff every year. Admiral is now hiring in its claims and sales departments and its customer service and renewals departments in Swansea.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/insurance-giants-admirable-300-job-boost-for-city/>

### Dry docks overhaul to create 100 jobs

A marine engineering giant is stepping up its bid to revive Swansea's dry docks. Harris Pye Group has signed a lease until the end of the year with dock owner Associated British Ports (ABP) to continue its ship repair and refurbishment work. The global firm created 200-plus jobs when it carried out a £20million overhaul of cruise ship Saga Pearl II last year. It also worked on the new Swansea-Cork ferry and two dredgers, and wants to secure a long-term presence at the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales dry docks. Harris Pye technical director Chris David said the firm had already invested £550,000 at the docks, and had received inquiries from ship owners regarding future contracts. He said securing a longer lease was vital to winning those contracts, adding that the firm was prepared to invest in an upgrade of dock facilities. If all went to plan, he claimed Harris Pye would create around 100 skilled jobs.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/dry-docks-overhaul-to-create-100-jobs/>

### **Swansea-Cork ferry service passenger numbers exceed expectations**

The Swansea to Cork ferry service has seen passenger numbers exceed expectations. The Swansea Cork Ferries company ended crossings in 2006 and prompted a campaign from passengers for the service to be reinstated – with the inaugural voyage being made on March 11 this year. The service has recently benefited from the chaos caused by the volcanic ash cloud that closed British airspace. Fastnet Line chief executive Phil Jones said that traffic tourism figures in April were 100% higher than had been expected. Mr. Jones said: “Despite seeing a significant uplift in tourism traffic as a result of grounded flights, the booking figures were already very strong. We are attracting passengers from all along the M4 corridor looking for an easy path to south-west Ireland.” The firm has received booking revenues of £3m with over 15,000 passengers taking overnight sailings.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-cork-ferry-service-passenger-numbers-exceed-expectations/>

### **Leaders' debate sparks record-breaking figures for Swansea technology company's TV-viewing on the go**

A Swansea hi-tech company pioneering television through mobile phones, has reported its highest audience for streamed content. About 5,000 people watched the final televised leaders' debate live on their mobile phone via Yamgo's technology platform. The viewing figures were the highest recorded for any programme watched in the UK on mobile, breaking the record of 2,900 viewers for an IPL cricket match last year. Yamgo originally offered extreme sports videos on mobiles but has developed its technology considerably and is now a leader in the mobile TV field, providing mobile applications, free-to-view TV, content licensing and advertising. Yamgo established a base at Technium Digital, Swansea University in 2009 and plans to create 23 jobs over the next two years.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/leaders-debate-sparks-record-breaking-figures-for-tv-viewing-on-the-go/>

### **Swansea firm goes global with 9M deal**

Dr Organic – a rapidly growing Welsh business specialising in natural and organic skincare and beauty products – has signed a £9 million distribution deal for the Middle East. The business, which is headquartered in Swansea, only began trading a year ago and already has its entire range exclusively stocked in every Holland and Barrett store in the UK. Steve Quinn and Fred Whitcomb, the entrepreneurs behind Dr Organic are now targeting international markets with their export drive supported by the Welsh Assembly Government. The company is benefiting from a number of services provided by the Assembly Government designed to support Welsh companies trade internationally which included its attendance at the World Organic Trade Fair Biofach in Nuremburg. It resulted in substantial interest from Korea, Japan, Taiwan and China. Dr Organic employs seven people at its head office in the JShed, Swansea. It carries out product development in house, retains the Intellectual Property Rights in Wales and outsources manufacturing.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-firm-goes-global-with-9m-deal/>

### **Monetary Policy Committee member gets up to speed on Swansea Bay**

David Miles, a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), met with Swansea Bay Businesses during a visit to the city last month. David was in Swansea to attend the Bank's briefing on the economy, which is held in the city every 6 months. David, accompanied by Neil Ashbridge, the Bank's Agent for Wales, used the opportunity to get an up to date picture of Swansea Bay and the issues facing the businesses based here. David and Neil were taken on a tour of the current and planned developments taking place in the city by Fiona Rees, Executive Director of Swansea Bay Futures. This was followed by a working lunch at which businesses including Admiral, Afon Tinline, Gower Chemicals, ABP, Castell Howell Foods, iCreate, Morgan Cole and the St David's Partnership set out the current economic challenges facing their businesses and had the opportunity to quiz David on the MPC and its approach to interest rates.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/monetary-policy-committee-member-gets-up-to-speed-on-swansea-bay/>

### **Swansea Bay businesses work to improve employee health and well-being**

A team at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) are developing a Mental Healthy Living Pack, focusing on mental health issues arising in the work place, to encourage Swansea Bay employers to improve the mental health of their employees. 1 in 6 people in the workforce suffer from anxiety or depression and many mental health disorders go unrecognised and untreated, resulting in financial losses for employers, calculated to equate to £860 for each employee in the Welsh workforce. ABMU are now calling for businesses with less than 250 employees to get involved in the development of the Mental Healthy Living pack, by discussing the mental health issues that affect their employees. There is also an opportunity to work towards the Small Workplace Health Award, awarding businesses that have taken action to support their employees in various aspects of health and well being. For more information please contact [tony.kluge@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:tony.kluge@wales.nhs.uk).  
<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-bay-businesses-work-to-improve-employees-health-and-well-being/>

### **Life-saving iPhone application made in Swansea Bay**

It costs less than £1 to buy and can be downloaded directly onto an iPhone – but this app could help save lives. The simple software, which was developed in Swansea and has been downloaded worldwide, will also help to make one of the most common healthcare procedures safer. The ivDripRate application helps nursing staff to calculate and check intravenous drips. Concerned that drip calculations could be the source of human error, Paul Lee, a medical devices training manager, developed a pocket card to help calculate the maths involved and, with the help of Mark Davies, a Swansea University computer science graduate, the card has been turned into software which works out the calculations at a touch of a button. The app provides an audio and visual guide for staff in the form of an on-screen virtual drip and is designed to be downloaded onto iPhones, iPod and iPad.  
<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/life-saving-iphone-application-made-in-swansea-bay/>

### **Inventor has idea for car protector all wrapped up**

A Llanelli based inventor is looking to commercialise his innovative protector for high performance cars. Earlier this year officials from Technium Performance Engineering came across the product (Carband) at the Autosport International Show. And after discussions, creator Des Sturdee has moved into the Welsh Assembly Government-backed incubator facility. The product is a band of highly protective material which wraps around the body of a car. Technium Performance Engineering has assisted Carband in creating a collaboration with a composites and materials specialist, Dr Cris Arnold, who is based at Swansea University's School of Engineering. With Dr Arnold's assistance, the optimum material needed to ensure Carband's maximum effectiveness is under development. Carband is looking for external investment to commence manufacturing at a commercial level. Given the required financing, production could start in six months, with the company committed to staying in South Wales. It is projecting sales of 8,000 in the UK in the first year. It is expected to retail at around £150.  
<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/inventor-has-idea-for-car-protector-all-wrapped-up/>

### **Racecourse is first past the post at Betview awards**

The impact of Ffos Las Racecourse on the horse-racing industry and economy of West Wales has been recognised with another award. The course has been named newcomer of the year by national betting and gaming magazine Betview. The Betview Awards recognise the outstanding achievement in the betting and gaming industry over the past year in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The board of Ffos Las has begun discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on securing funding for a multi-million-pound investment for expansion. Plans in the pipeline include construction of a caravan and camping complex, construction of a hotel and an extension to the grandstand.  
<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/racecourse-is-first-past-the-post-at-betview-awards/>

## **Swansea Bay Business Awards launched**

The search is on for the best businesses in Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Carmarthenshire with the launch of the Swansea Bay Regional Business Awards 2010. The prestigious award scheme is organised by Swansea Bay Partnership and sponsored by John Collins & Partners Solicitors (JCP). There are 6 different awards with International Business, Innovation and Most Promising New Business among the categories. Connie Parry, of Hurns Brewery, 2009 Business Award title holders said "These awards have provided our business with some great profile. This is an award which one can be very proud of winning". Deadline for entries is Friday 17th September 2010. The winners will be announced at a glittering awards ceremony at the Brangwyn Hall on 26th November 2010. Tickets for the dinner & awards are available at £40 each. To make a booking contact Sarah Toomey on 01792 545066 / [sarah.toomey@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.toomey@swansea.gov.uk)

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-bay-business-awards-launched/>

## **Network aims to boost Swansea Bay's future**

A network has been created to challenge negative perceptions of Swansea Bay and promote the best the region has to offer. The group was created by Swansea Bay Futures to tap into ideas and enthusiasm from the region's entrepreneurs and creative thinkers. The network brings together business people from across Swansea Bay who share a belief in the future of the region and a desire to get involved. Swansea Bay Futures Board Member Dawn Lyle said: "It's really up to all of us who live and work in Swansea Bay and who feel positively about the region to work together on this. We all stand to benefit in the long run if we can boost Swansea Bay's appeal to visitors, businesses, investors and others." The next meeting is taking place on the 16th June at 4.30pm in Technium 2 in Swansea's SA1 and will continue to take place on a monthly basis. Organisers are looking to form an action group to create and implement fresh ideas for promoting the region. To find out more about the Network or to register your interest, visit: [www.sbfnetwork.co.uk](http://www.sbfnetwork.co.uk)

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/network-aims-to-boost-bays-future/>

## **Carmarthenshire food on show to the nation**

Carmarthenshire food producers have been showcasing their delights to the nation at the high profile 2010 Food and Drink Expo in Birmingham's NEC. Many generated strong business leads with projected sales contracts of £130,000. Food development officers from Carmarthenshire County Council say the exhibition has brought another boost to the county – which is building a reputation as a first class food producing region. Carmarthenshire companies Café Fair Trade, Carmarthenshire Cheese Co., Farm Fresh, Food Laboratory Wales, Parsons, Pembertons, San Cler, and Prima Foods attended the fair. Award winning Caws Cenarth exhibited along with waffle-maker Tregroes Waffles.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/carmarthenshire-food-on-show-to-the-nation/>

## **New research into impact of eating disorders on elite gymnasts**

Researchers from Swansea University's School of Human and Health Sciences have been awarded £100k by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to investigate ethical aspects of the impact of eating disorders on elite gymnasts. The Swansea research team will explore a range of questions in order to ascertain the prevalence of symptoms of eating disorders and its impact on both male and female elite gymnasts. The project's key outcome will be to identify features of eating disorders – before they reach critical levels – in the contexts of elite gymnastics that can be used to develop a prevention programme for eating disorders.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/new-research-into-impact-of-eating-disorders-on-elite-gymnasts/>

## **Swansea Celebrates 75 Years at the Centre of the Glass World**

Swansea Met's Welsh School of Architectural Glass is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary as a global epicentre for glass art. Glass art was introduced to Swansea in 1935 by William Grant Murray and one of the School's first students was Swansea's Howard Martin, who went on to launch the first diploma in stained glass. Reflecting its status as the only glass school in Wales, it became the Welsh School of Architectural Glass in 2005. Students from the School have won an unprecedented number of awards and their work can be found in collections worldwide. Examples include Amber Hiscott's glass leaf that sits in Swansea's Castle Square and the unique glass blocks used in the facade walls of Cardiff's Millennium Centre, created and patented by the School's research associate Rodney Bender. The Welsh School of Architectural Glass remains as the only architecturally-based glass School in the world and its anniversary will be marked with a series of events and exhibitions throughout 2010.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-celebrates-75-years-at-the-centre-of-the-glass-world/>

## **Development Update**

### **Watersport bid charts a course for bay success**

Details of the new £4 million Swansea Bay water sports centre have been released, with plans for Swansea Marina, St Helen's waterfront and Mumbles. The plans would see a pontoon at the marina, and the refurbishment of the historic cutter Olga to enable her to provide sailing trips. The St Helen's development will see a new centre for watersports to include toilets, changing and showering facilities, car parking, and better access to the sea. Meanwhile in Mumbles, money will be spent on the slipway and visitor facilities at Knab Rock to make the area more attractive to international sailing and catamaran events. The investment package has been put together with funding from the European Regional Development Fund, the Assembly Government, Swansea Strategic Regeneration Area, Swansea Council, Mumbles Community Council, the Environment Agency and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. It is hoped all schemes will be complete by the end of 2012.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/watersport-bid-charts-a-course-for-bay-success/>

### **Developer sought for historic Copperworks site**

A hotel, restaurant and residential development could soon be in the pipeline for an historic Swansea site. Swansea Council has now put the city's famous Hafod Copperworks Site out to the marketplace and is seeking declarations of interest by the middle of August. The site makes up over 12 acres of land close to the River Tawe and Swansea Council is looking to bring about a vibrant and attractive development that celebrates the unique contribution the area made to the Industrial Revolution. This would include the preservation and protection of listed buildings, the interpretation of industrial history and the new use of heritage buildings. The Hafod Copperworks was founded in 1810 by Cornishman John Vivian. It became the largest copper works in the world in the 19th Century and continued rolling copper until its closure in 1980.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/developer-sought-for-historic-copperworks-site/>

### **Cycling and walking boost for waterfront**

Brand new facilities are now available for cyclists and pedestrians along Swansea's River Tawe waterside. Work on an upgrade scheme to enhance the links between the Tawe river bridge and Swansea Yacht Club in the city's maritime quarter is now complete. Surfaces have been improved and new trees, seating, bins, railings and public lighting columns have been introduced under the scheme. The project was funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, the European Regional Development Fund and Swansea Council and forms part of the Swansea City Centre Strategic Framework - a policy that guides the regeneration of Swansea, developing better links between the city centre and waterfront.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/cycling-and-walking-boost-for-waterfront/>

## **New Indian restaurant at Patti Pavilion is to be called the Patti Raj**

Four Swansea businessmen are set to open a new Indian restaurant, the Patti Raj, at the refurbished Patti Pavilion by July. They are also planning to host a range of events at the hall, such as concerts, weddings, dinner dances, live music and community activities. Investor, Mr. Noor, said the businessmen had more than 60 years' experience in catering and events management and hope to create around 15 jobs. The 110-seat restaurant could be extended to the first floor, with an outdoor terrace. A smaller, daytime cafe is also planned at the venue, with seating outside. The revamped Patti has lain empty since the economic downturn. It was built in 1881 as the winter garden at Craig-y-Nos Castle, the Swansea Valley home of Victorian opera star Dame Adelina Patti. She left instructions that after her death the pavilion should be left to the people of Swansea. It was transported to Victoria Park in 1920.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/new-indian-restaurant-at-patti-pavilion-is-to-be-called-the-patti-raj/>

## **Coed Darcy homes on Sale**

The first homes at the Coed Darcy development in Neath Port Talbot go on sale this month. A total of 45 houses have been built by Atlantic Property Developments and marketed by estate agent Savills. The first section of the development, known as Heritage Gate, includes properties ranging from studio apartments to four-bedroom houses. Potential buyers will be able to visit show homes and walk around the site from 5<sup>th</sup> June. The £1.2 billion Coed Darcy scheme has been built on the site of a former BP oil refinery, and is due to take around 20 years to finish. It will include 4,500 homes, community and leisure features, as well as offices and 1,300 acres of open space when it is completed.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/coed-darcy-homes-on-sale/>

## **£2 million Regeneration of four rural towns**

Exciting plans have been drawn up to regenerate the rural communities of Laugharne, St Clears, Newcastle Emlyn and Pendine following consultation with residents over what improvements they would most like to see. Among the proposals identified were riverside access schemes in St Clears and Newcastle Emlyn, a town environmental enhancement scheme in Laugharne and promenade improvements in Pendine. The plans have been put forward as part of a bid for £2 million funding under the Rural Development Plan for Wales, which is funded by the Welsh Assembly and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Officers are planning to showcase the proposals in a series of public exhibitions over the coming weeks.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/2m-regeneration-of-four-rural-towns/>

## **Flagship Art Centre for Carmarthenshire**

A new regional hub for the arts industry has been developed in St Clears. Brand new studios are available for let, giving artists a base to indulge their creativity. Workshops, incubator units, meeting rooms and activity space have been created at the £431,459 Carmarthenshire Centre for Crafts. A revitalised gallery, craft retail area and café have been created, giving local artists and craft makers a platform to showcase their products.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/flagship-art-centre-for-carmarthenshire/>

## **Exciting news from around the region!**

### **The Wave and Swansea Sound are celebrating!**

96.4FM the Wave and sister station Swansea Sound are celebrating after recording an increase in listener figures according to the latest RAJAR results for Q1 2010. The figures show that a massive 185,000 people across South West Wales now tune into the stations each week, which puts The Wave & Swansea Sound 83,000 listeners per week ahead of their nearest commercial competitor. The Wave now out performs all other stations in South West Wales, including the BBC.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/the-wave-and-swansea-sound-are-celebrating/>

## **7 Blue flags for Swansea Bay Beaches...**

Bracelet Bay, Caswell Bay, Llangland Bay and Port Eynon are all flying the award for Swansea, Neath Port Talbot is also celebrating after Aberavon Beach got its award, while Carmarthenshire can put the flags up at Cefn Sidan and Pendine. Across Wales, some 45 beaches and five marinas made the grade, including Swansea's city marina. More than £1.5m was spent on improving parking facilities near Aberavon beach, landscaping the surrounding area, installing new promenade railings and improving the signs, lightings and street furniture. Another £2m was invested in improving leisure facilities, including the development of a sandcastle play area and Skateboard Park and £950,000 funded the new amphitheatre, piazza and toilets. Meanwhile, Pembrey's Cefn Sidan beach has won back its Blue Flag. One failed water sample test in September 2008 meant Cefn Sidan, the first beach in Wales to win the Blue Flag 20 years ago, was unable to fly it in 2009. Tests taken last year showed Cefn Sidan had some of the purest samples recorded anywhere in the UK, ensuring it can now display the flag for a record 18th time.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/7-blue-flags-for-swanea-bay-beaches/>

## **...while Swansea life is a beach! Nine of our bays make sea bathing guide**

Swanea Bay has made a splash in this year's good beach guide, with nine excellent places to soak up the sun. More than three-quarters of beaches in South West Wales have passed the test, according to the 2010 Good Beach Guide. The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) carried out the survey of 769 British bathing spots, with 55 per cent being recommended by the conservation group. Of the 25 beaches in Swanea Bay, 19 were given a pass — with nine being classed as excellent. Perhaps the biggest winner in the results was Aberavon Beach, which went from a basic pass for its water quality in 2009 to being recommended a year later. Swanea Council said it was pleased that 14 of the 16 Swanea beaches where water testing had taken place have made the grade.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swanea-lifes-a-beach-nine-of-our-bays-make-sea-bathing-guide/>

## **LC launches pass to all-day family fun**

Swanea's flagship leisure centre, the LC, is to launch an all-day junior pass in time for the half-term holiday. The special ticket will allow youngsters to experience all the attractions within the city centre facility. The LC will be trialing the all-day ticket over the holiday period with the hope to introduce it over the entire school summer break if proven popular. Richard Proctor, LC's chief executive said he could understand how difficult it was for mums and dads to keep the children entertained and active and without spending a fortune. "I'm a parent myself," he said. "The idea of the all-day pass is to give children a great place to spend their holiday without the expensive price tag for mum and dad".

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/lc-launches-pass-to-all-day-family-fun/>

## **Swanea achieves City of Sanctuary status**

Swanea has become the first place in Wales to win City of Sanctuary status. Over 100 groups have pledged to create a culture of hospitality for people fleeing violence or persecution. The movement aims to create a network of towns and cities in the UK that are proud to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and help them fully integrate. Swanea launched its bid two years ago and the award will be celebrated at a special event in the city's Guildhall this month. The City of Sanctuary movement began in Sheffield - the only other city in the UK to gain the award to date.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swanea-achieves-city-of-sanctuary-status/>

### **First cruise ship visits Swansea this year**

Passengers and crew aboard the Ocean Nova, which usually navigates its way around the Antarctic, dropped anchor in Swansea during May. Swansea Council tourism staff met passengers and crew at the Prince of Wales dock to hand out information packs and maps. Iwan Davies, Swansea Council's head of culture and tourism, said: "The Ocean Nova's visit to Swansea is a direct result of Swansea Council's involvement in the Celtic Wave – a European-funded partnership with ABP and the ports of Milford Haven, Holyhead, Waterford, Cork and Dublin. The partnership's aim is to market the Irish Sea as a cruise ship destination, and this visit comes as a direct result of the activity undertaken by the partnership. We hope to see many more cruise ship visit Swansea in the future."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/first-cruise-ship-visits-swanea-this-year/>

### **Swansea Central Library is the best in Wales**

Swansea Central Library is the best in Wales, according to a UK-wide study. Figures sought by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) show the Civic Centre-based attraction issued 565,876 items in 2008/2009 - the most in Wales and the tenth most in the UK. And Swansea Central Library has continued the trend in 2009/2010. Swansea Council figures show the library has welcomed close to half a million people in the last year and issued over 590,000 books, CDs and DVDs. <http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-central-library-is-the-best-in-wales/>

### **Mumbles 'Big Apple' landmark open following crash**

A seaside landmark which was badly damaged when a car ran into it last year has reopened. The kiosk in the shape of a giant apple has been a popular feature at Bracelet Bay in Mumbles since the 1930s and there had been fears for its future. But owners, John and Bert Bollom, who also run Mumbles Pier, commissioned a repair plan and the "Big Apple" reopened in May. Some 27,000 people worldwide had joined an online group calling for the kiosk to be restored. The 'Big Apple' was originally built to promote a cider drink and it is thought to be one of the last of its kind still in use.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/mumbles-big-apple-landmark-reopening-following-crash/>

### **Swansea is a hotbed for sustainability**

The Sustainable Swansea Awards have been launched to recognise the achievements of local organisations, groups and individuals that demonstrate a genuine commitment to good environmental practice and sustainable development. Previous winners include local businesses such as AB Glass and Pitstop Carwash who have set great examples on issues such as energy and water efficiency, reuse of unwanted goods and supporting local communities. There are seven award categories in the 2010 scheme including the Waste Wise Business Award, the Biodiversity Award, the Champion Award and new awards for reducing carbon emissions.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-is-a-hotbed-for-sustainability/>

### **Venue tops garden poll**

The National Botanic Garden of Wales has been named the number one garden to visit in Wales. The Carmarthenshire attraction came out on top in a poll conducted by the BBC's Gardeners' World magazine. The Llanarthne garden also scooped the most votes for Wales in the categories of best afternoon tea and most romantic garden. The garden's head of marketing, David Hardy, said he was delighted at the results. "The news that we have retained the title of number one garden in Wales is a fantastic accolade and a wonderful birthday present in our 10th anniversary year."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/venue-tops-garden-poll/>

## **Pendine toasts record breaking success**

A British lawnmower has cut the world land speed record, with a new top speed of almost 88 mph. Rider Don Wales took the petrol-driven mower into the record books at Pendine Sands in Carmarthenshire. In order to bid for the record on a lawnmower, participants must drive over a measured mile in one direction and return within an hour. To qualify for entry, machines must be built primarily from lawnmower parts and must still be able to cut grass after all the modifications. Mr. Wales' grandfather was Sir Malcolm Campbell, who broke the world land speed record with a speed of 146.16mph - in a car - at the same venue in 1924. Coincidentally, the very car that broke the record, the Sunbeam Bluebird, will return to the scene of its achievements and will be at the Pendine Museum of Speed until 21 June.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/pendine-toasts-record-breaking-success/>

## **Neath's Gnoll Country Park voted the best for a picnic...**

Neath's Gnoll Country Park has been voted the best place to picnic in Wales in this year's Warburtons Picnic Awards. Hundreds of picnic-goers cast their votes to help the Gnoll fight off stiff competition from other sites in Wales. The park will now go on to battle it out against nine other picnic locations around the UK to win the national title in Warburtons' annual awards. Gnoll Country Park is an 18th Century landscaped estate which retains many of its original charms, including cascades and the ruins of Gnoll House. Gnoll Country Park receives a £500 prize for winning the regional heat and could receive a further £500 if it goes on to win the coveted title of Warburtons Best Picnic Site 2010.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/neaths-gnoll-country-park-voted-the-best-for-a-picnic/>

## **...while Rhossili Bay also wins vote**

Rhossili Bay has been named the best picnic spot in the UK once again. The sweeping stretch of land on the Gower peninsula was chosen by travel writers ahead of Tennyson Down on the Isle of Wight and Redpoint Beach in the Highlands. Tim Locke, spokesman for the British Guild of Travel Writers, said: "As well as all-time classics, there are real hidden gems in this list. They are all worth a visit. Dining alfresco is one of life's great pleasures." Last year it was named the best picnic spot in Wales in an online poll.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/rhossili-bay-wins-vote/>

## **New Walk for Afan Valley**

Plans are afoot to create a walking and cycling trail in the Afan Forest Park. The three mile trail will highlight special points of interest to the life of actor Richard Burton, who was born locally in the village of Pontrhydyfen. Called the Richard Burton Trail Interpretation project, it is intended to extend the trail to Taibach in Port Talbot where Richard lived for some time as a youngster. The proposed route in Pontrhydyfen and Cwmavon will link into the new route presently being developed under the UK wide Sustrans Connect2 scheme which will provide cyclists and walkers with a safe route along the Afan Valley. To tie in with the trail, a 'Portrait Bench' has been unveiled –honouring Richard Burton, comedian Rob Brydon and head Ranger Dick Wagstaff who has devoted thirty years to developing Afan Forest Park.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/new-walk-for-afan-valley/>

# **Events and Activities**

## **GENERAL EVENTS**

### **Mission Photography Open 2010 Until 10 July**

The exhibition features a wide range of high quality, contemporary photography by both established and emerging artists

**Mission Gallery, Swansea**

## Half Term Holiday Events

Until 6 June

Venues throughout Swansea Bay

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/school-holiday-events/>

With a range of activities and events, you're bound to find something to entertain the family in Swansea Bay. From a kite festival at Margam Park, Teepee making at the Glynn Vivian to Duckling Days at WWT National Wetland Centre Wales, you'll be spoilt for choice.

### Gower Walking Festival

5 – 21 June

Gower, Swansea

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

The 2010 Festival will be the biggest yet, with over 56 guided walks, spread out over seventeen days, around glorious Gower, Mumbles and other local settings.

### Gower Folk Festival

11 – 13 June, 11am – 11pm

Gower Heritage Centre, Swansea

<http://www.gowerheritagecentre.co.uk/>

The centre welcomes the Gower Folk Festival back for its 17<sup>th</sup> year and features headliners, Spiers and Boden, front men of BBC favourites Bellowhead.

### Escape into the Park

12 June, 12pm – 11pm

Singleton Park, Swansea

[www.escapefestival.com](http://www.escapefestival.com)

Escape into the Park is Wales' largest dance music festival. The event features the crème de la crème of DJs and artists from around the world spread over 11 hours.

### Outdoor Theatre: Great Expectations

16 & 17 June, 6.30pm for a 7.30pm performance

Oystermouth Castle, Mumbles

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=36259>

With a stunning setting overlooking Swansea Bay, enjoy some outdoor theatre! Expect high comedy and dark drama as we follow Pip on his journey to become a gentleman and discover the true nature of his 'great expectations'.

### South Wales Boat Show

18 – 20 June, 10am – 6pm

Price of Wales Dock, SA1, Swansea

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

At a brand new location, the South Wales Boat Show will be the biggest in Wales. Show highlights include a wide range of exhibitors, a pirate ship play area, dragon boat racing, a surf simulator and the opportunity to come and try a selection of watersports.

### Brynmill Park Fun Day

19 June, 12pm - 6pm

Brynmill Park, Swansea

[www.breatheswansea.com](http://www.breatheswansea.com)

Visit Brynmill Park for a great family day out. Entertainment includes dancers, performers and music from local bands as well as arts & crafts, storytelling sessions for children and a whole host of fun and games. A dog show will also be taking place with proceeds going to RSPCA Lys Nini Animal Centre and Tom Morgan's Friends of Brynmill.

### Margam Park Bike Festival

26 June, 11am – 4pm

Margam Park

[www.npt.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.npt.gov.uk/cycling)

To celebrate Bike Week there will be activities and stalls throughout the day, including; cycle rides for all ages and abilities, plus a goodie bag at the end for all participants, a picnic in the park, children's bike ramps, Dr Bike- Bike maintenance and servicing, a treasure hunt and much more. Entry and participation in all activities is free.

## **BUSINESS EVENTS:**

### **Vibe TV @ Charlie's**

**2, 16 & 30 June, 5pm – 7pm**      **Charlie's Café Bar & Dining, Prospect Place, Swansea**  
[www.vibetv.tv](http://www.vibetv.tv) / [www.charliesdining.co.uk](http://www.charliesdining.co.uk)

VibeTV is collaborating with Charlie's café bar and dining to create the only free networking event in Swansea. Get together with like minded people to build your business network and establish new contacts and leads in an informal environment. To reserve your place contact Vibe TV on [studio@vibetv.tv](mailto:studio@vibetv.tv) or call 01792 461507.

### **Business Growth Club: IT & Communications**

**8 June, 1.30pm – 4pm**      **Ethos, Swansea**

[http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show\\_event.asp?id=183](http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show_event.asp?id=183)

This interactive Business Growth Club will help you to drive new business, identify efficiencies and control your costs, through the effective use of IT & Communications. Places are limited, so to request your place email: [info@southwaleschamber.co.uk](mailto:info@southwaleschamber.co.uk)

### **South Wales Chamber Networking Breakfast**

**9 June, 7.30am – 9.30am**      **Village Hotel, Swansea**

[http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show\\_event.asp?id=191](http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show_event.asp?id=191)

Join members of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce for a networking breakfast and hear from guest speaker Anna Bastek, co-founder of Wolfestone Translation Ltd, a rapidly growing and multi award winning international translation company and Swansea Bay Woman of the Year 2009.

### **Decrease Waste and Increase Profit**

**10 June, 8.30am – 10am**      **Technium Performance Engineering, Dafen, Llanelli**

<http://www.swwhep.ac.uk/en/projects/dragoninnovationpartnership/>

Book your place at this free innovative recession-busting event now for your chance to increase profits in your business. Find out from industry and academic experts how to make money by going green. Register now for your place at the event by contacting Duncan Gardner on 01267 676861 or [duncan.gardner@trinity-cm.ac.uk](mailto:duncan.gardner@trinity-cm.ac.uk).

### **Swansea Business Club Diamond Jubilee Lunch**

**11 June, 12pm**      **Brangwyn Hall, Swansea**

<http://www.swanseabusinessclub.com/year-programme.php>

Join members of Swansea Business Club for their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hear from Nick Hewer, star of BBC show The Apprentice. His speech will take the audience behind the scenes of his TV and business life. He will also host a question and answer session. To book, contact Lisa Williams on 02920 646 860 or by email at [lwilliams@effcom.co.uk](mailto:lwilliams@effcom.co.uk).

### **Swansea Bay Futures Network**

**16 June, 4.30pm**      **Technium 2, SA1, Swansea**

<http://www.sbfnetwork.co.uk/>

Join the Swansea Bay Futures Network to discuss and action ideas for promoting the future of Swansea Bay.

### **Swansea Bay Tourism Awards 2010 Launch Event**

**16 June**      **Dragon Hotel, Swansea**

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

Award categories for the 2010 Swansea Bay Tourism Awards will be announced and guests will have the opportunity to see the winner of the 'best large hotel 2008'. Any tourism business can enter with the closing date for entries on the 24 September, 2010.

## Supplying & Buying Manufacturing Workshop

22 June, 8.30am – 12pm

ECM2, Port Talbot

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

Aimed at businesses working within the manufacturing environment, the workshops are designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the manufacturing sector. Visit the website or call Bernadette Beynon on 029 2044 4722 to book your place.

## South Wales Chamber Business Ladies @ Lunch

23 June, 12.30pm – 3.30pm

The Diplomat Hotel, Felinfoel, Llanelli

[http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show\\_event.asp?id=192](http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show_event.asp?id=192)

Join female members of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce for lunch and hear from guest speaker, Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council, Cllr. Meryl Gravell.

## International Business Day: Poland

24 June, 8.30am – 4.30pm

Ethos, Swansea

[http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show\\_event.asp?id=171](http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show_event.asp?id=171)

The South Wales Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to participate in their International Business Day. Your company can benefit from a free 45 minute individual consultation to explore the opportunities and support available to assist you generating business in Poland, Europe and beyond. Places are very limited - contact 01633 242749 or email [info@southwaleschamber.co.uk](mailto:info@southwaleschamber.co.uk) to reserve your free place.

## Contact

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