



## September Edition

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

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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

### Enfis wins Chinese contract

Lighting technology firm, the Enfis Group, has announced its biggest contract win in two years. The Swansea company has secured a contract to supply LED arrays and drivers for the NBA Stadium in Guangzhou, China, for the Asian Games showcase in November. The deal represents the biggest contract for the Swansea firm since its lighting featured in the Abu Dhabi grand prix in 2009 – when it provided the lighting for the Yas Hotel. Chief executive of Enfis, Ceri Jones, said: "Enfis is very pleased to be chosen as a key partner in this prestigious project. As a result, Enfis light engine technology will be showcased to the whole of Asia during the Asian Games. The project should act as a lighting flagship for Enfis and its partners, with excellent prospects for follow-on business in China and throughout Asia."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/enfis-wins-chinese-contract/>

### Discount Giant to open in Swansea's Parc Tawe

Discount supermarket chain Home Bargains will open its latest branch at Swansea's Parc Tawe on Saturday, September 11. It is taking over a 7,000 sq ft unit in the former Rosebys store. The company has invested £500,000 in the new store, which will stock low-price goods covering everything from health and beauty to household products. Joe Morris, operations director at Home Bargains, said: "We're delighted to be opening this new store in Parc Tawe. I'm thrilled that Home Bargains is able to create more local jobs for the people of Swansea." The chain opened 30 new stores across the country in 2009, creating 1,200 jobs and already has four stores across the region. Joe Morris said: "We select new stores based on their suitability for Home Bargains and their customer profile, location and other financial parameters. Swansea is the next logical place to bring the brand."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/discount-giant-to-open-in-swanseas-parc-tawe/>

### **Harris Pye looks west as profits grow 86 per cent**

Harris Pye, the marine engineering group, is eyeing growth at Swansea Docks after a sharp rise in profits and turnover. The Barry-based group made a pre-tax profit of £5.4m in 2009, up 86 per cent from the year before, on turnover which rose by 26 per cent to £65.8m. Managing director Mark Prendergast said: "It's all about the growth in our offshore sector and our project management skills. Swansea Docks is most definitely a future target for us if we can secure this on a long term basis as it will also ensure that the group grows locally." The company has seen more activity since it signed a longer lease on Swansea's dry docks in April. So far this year, six vessels, a cruise liner, a ferry, three dredgers and the cargo ship Visten have been in the dry docks, with more expected soon.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/harris-pye-looks-west-as-profits-grow-86-per-cent/>

### **Yamgo in the frame for top mobile industry award**

Yamgo, the global mobile content delivery network, has been recognised for its pioneering linear TV and catch-up video technology with a nomination in the European Streaming Media Readers' Choice Awards. The nomination for "Best Mobile Video App or Solution" is acknowledgment of the company's industry leading technology solution that allows broadcasters, media companies and service providers to extend their brands, reach a new audiences and monetise their content on phones. Voting is now open to the public and will continue until September 13th. The three finalists in each section will be announced on September 20<sup>th</sup> and winners will be revealed during a ceremony at the world's largest technology and business conference dedicated to online video, Streaming Media Europe 2010 on October 14th. To vote visit: <http://www.streamingmediaglobal.com/ReadersChoice>.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/yamgo-in-the-frame-for-top-mobile-industry-award/>

### **Assembly in £7.5m train upgrade bid**

A £7.5m upgrade plan for trains used on the Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) mainline service has been announced. The money will come from the Welsh Assembly government and ATW funding and will be used to install new seating, passenger information systems, improved luggage storage, toilet refurbishment and additional wheelchair space on 59 trains. Services to benefit include the picturesque Heart of Wales line; the route between Swansea and Cardiff; and the faster Carmarthen to Manchester trains. Work on some of the trains has started, with the entire project expected to be completed by summer 2012. The firm's commercial director Mike Bagshaw said: "This extensive programme of improvements marks a major milestone for the franchise. Our focus now is very much on improving the quality of our trains and stations, together with reducing journey travel times."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/assembly-in-75m-train-upgrade-bid/>

### **Firms combine to create 100 engineering jobs for city**

Around 100 engineering jobs are set to be created by a Swansea firm which has bought an industry leader. Unit Engineers and Constructors Ltd has acquired West Midlands based Birwelco Ltd from the Haden Freeman Group. The deal is set to create 100 skilled jobs, the majority of which will be at Unit's bases off Fabian Way in Swansea and at Pembroke Dock. It is also likely to see further job creation as a result of joining the Unit Group. Unit bosses are predicting the take-over deal will see Birwelco's annual turnover rise to £50 million by 2013. The acquisition is also expected to have a significant positive knock-on effect on suppliers and sub contractors in Wales. The takeover has placed Unit into a small number of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractors operating in the oil and gas, refinery, chemical, petrochemical and utilities industries.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/firms-combine-to-create-100-engineering-jobs-for-city/>

### **Carmarthenshire manufacturing firm strengthens its position at the top**

Morgan GRP, a Carmarthenshire manufacturing group, has strengthened its position as a top maker of glass reinforced polymer structures and steel products by acquiring Swansea rival Envico Engineering in a deal, worth £1.75 million which will help to secure 64 jobs at Envico's sites in Llansamlet and Baglan. Morgan, based at Llandybie near Ammanford, will employ more than 200 staff generating a turnover of about £14m after the takeover. Morgan's products include kiosks, gatehouses, cabinets and secure buildings. Morgan Marine has been engineering GRP enclosures and steel products since 1965 and provides design and manufacturing services to UK and European clients. The acquired business will continue to trade as Envico Engineering, part of the Morgan GRP group of companies. The group includes Morgan Marine, PSF Wales and Envico Engineering.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/carmarthenshire-manufacturing-firm-strengthens-its-position-at-the-top/>

### **185m Corus investment at Port Talbot blast furnace**

A £185m investment at Corus' giant steelworks in Port Talbot has been announced. It involves rebuilding an old blast furnace at the plant, which employs around 5,000 workers. The company called it a "major step" towards positioning the plant as a producer of high-quality strip products "on a global scale". The rebuild will start in July 2012; will boost the capacity of the two blast furnaces by up to 400,000 tonnes per year, and aims to safeguard the furnace for another 20 years. Corus managing director and CEO of Tata Steel Europe, Kirby Adams said the investment was partly due to the commitment shown by workers across its sites in south Wales during the economic downturn. He said: "This investment is a major step in achieving Tata Steel's ambition to position Port Talbot as a producer of high-quality strip products on a global scale and an internationally competitive cost base. Our capital expenditure decisions aim to invest in those who invest in themselves. The commitment and capability shown by our south Wales employees, to meet the challenges posed by the downturn, together with constant support we have received from the Welsh Assembly Government and the local community and unions, are factors that have led to this decision."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/185m-corus-investment-at-port-talbot-blast-furnace/>

### **... and is taking on 150 new trainees**

Steel giant Corus will be taking on 150 new staff. The firm, which already employs 3,500 people at its Port Talbot works, is hiring 80 apprentices and around 70 graduate and functional trainees as part of its talent development programme in the autumn. More than 600 people applied for the Corus apprenticeship programme. Corus Strip Products human resources director David Vineall said recruitment had been challenging as the standard of applications was "very high". Apprentices taken on this year will be trained in mechanical and electrical engineering, as well as steel-making skills. Mr Vineall said: "We are an innovative company, we recruit new talent each year, and welcome the input they bring to our organisation. Our talent pipeline is the foundation of our future."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/talent-pipeline-is-foundation-of-our-future-steel-firm-corus-takes-on-150-new-trainees/>

### **Welsh Assembly awards £3m to secure future of Crown Food Europe**

A plant with 70 years of history in Neath has been given a £3 million grant. Crown Food Europe, which occupies a factory known as the Metal Box in Canal Side, has been awarded the money by the Assembly to invest in its product. The plant specialises in the manufacturing of lidding components for food cans and employs around 300 people. A spokeswoman for the company said they would use the funding to buy new equipment that would increase the quality of its products and help it develop new easy-open technologies for the processed food can market. "The investment will also build the skills of current employees and, ultimately, help create new jobs for workers in the region in the years to come," she said.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/welsh-assembly-awards-3m-to-secure-future-of-crown-food-europe-neath/>

## **Swansea Bay producers star at Great Taste Awards**

Welsh producers scooped a large slice of accolades at the Great Taste Awards. More than 6,000 businesses from across the UK entered and Welsh producers were among just 95 that gained the speciality food and drink awards' elite three stars. In Swansea Bay, Lamb producer Gower Salt Marsh Lamb received the coveted three gold stars for its fresh lamb. Other Swansea Bay winners included Hurns Brewery of Swansea who won two gold stars for Tomos Watkin Magic Lagyr and La Crème Patisserie of Neath who picked up one gold star for their ginger and pear drizzle sponge. Carmarthenshire's food producers performed exceptionally well with gold stars for Albert Rees Ltd's Carmarthen brisket; Cwmcerrig Farm Shop and Grill's rice pudding, farmhouse cawl, sirloin steak and silverside; and Lovespoon Goats Milk Gelato for their capriccino, lemon grove and turkish delight goat's milk gelatos.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-bay-producers-star-at-great-taste-awards/>

## **Taffy Apples cider is a hit in Denmark**

It is probably known as the world's best lager-producing nation – but Denmark is now turning its attention to Welsh cider. The Hurns Brewing Company from Swansea said its True Taste Award-winning Taffy Apples cider was proving a hit with drinkers in Denmark, with exports rapidly increasing. The firm's chief executive, Connie Parry, said: "The Danish can't seem to get enough of Taffy Apples or our beers. Our wholesaler in Denmark keeps on asking us for more." <http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/taffy-apples-cider-is-a-hit-in-denmark/>

## **Brewer raises a glass to best pint in Wales**

An award-winning brewer can now claim to have the best bitter in Wales. Evan-Evans, which is run from headquarters in Llandeilo, was the highest ranking Welsh producer in the Best Bitter award run by the Great British Beer Festival at London's Earls Court. The firm was awarded the bronze medal for its flagship Cwrw brand, which also took the same award last year. Evan-Evans has been brewing in Llandeilo for the last six years, and now produces specialist cask ales for the Welsh and national guest ale market. The firm is now Wales's largest specialist brewer of cask ale.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/brewer-raises-a-glass-to-best-pint-in-wales/>

## **Carmarthenshire families helped onto property ladder**

Gŵyr Homes and Carmarthenshire County Council have been able to help sixteen families onto the property ladder in Carmarthenshire through a low cost home ownership initiative. Stuart Davies of Gŵyr Homes said "We're delighted that we've been able to help sixteen families who aspire to home ownership. Not only are we helping these families into homes of their own but some of the successful applicants will be moving out of housing association and council properties, meaning that nine properties will be freed up for other families who are in need of a home." Gŵyr Homes, part of Grŵp Gwalia, specialises in providing affordable homes for people who are finding it hard to buy property.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/carmarthenshire-families-helped-onto-property-ladder/>

## **A new era in Further Education as Gower College Swansea is created**

Friday 20th August 2010 marked the dawn of a new era for education in the City & County of Swansea, with the creation of Gower College Swansea, formed by the merger of two individually successful institutions, Gorseinon College and Swansea College, heralding an era of cooperation, widened choice and improved access for post 16 education in Swansea. Gower College Swansea is the second largest FE establishment in Wales, with approximately 1,100 staff and 17,000 students. The campus is currently spread over two main sites - at Belgrave Road, Gorseinon and Tycoch Road, Swansea - plus a number of smaller 'satellite' centres. However, a brand new flagship campus is planned for Swansea city centre.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/a-new-era-in-further-education-as-gower-college-swansea-is-created/>

## **Swansea University celebrates £3.6 million research boost**

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales has announced core research funding for Swansea University will increase by just over £3.6 million during 2010, the largest rise in funding of any university in Wales. The increase demonstrates the rapid rise in Swansea University's reputation for internationally excellent and world-leading research and is a direct result of the university's recent success in the Research Assessment Exercise, which compared the quality of research in universities across the UK. Swansea University's vice-chancellor Richard B Davies said: "When you see success being measured in cash terms, it begins to sink in just how well Swansea is performing. The additional funding will help us to build further on our strengths, while previous experience shows it will also generate an extra £9 million a year for research projects and will create more than 200 jobs over the next few years." Professor Davies acknowledged the contribution of staff for its reputation for research development.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/university-celebrates-36m-research-boost/>

## **Swansea Met top in Wales for graduate businesses**

Recent figures, sourced from the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey, have shown that Swansea Metropolitan University produces significantly more successful graduate start-up business than any other higher education institution in Wales. In fact, twenty-six percent of all Welsh graduate start-ups began their life at Swansea Met. Swansea Met's success in this area has followed the work of Andy Penaluna, a Professor of Creative Entrepreneurship. He has developed pioneering research and helps lecturing teams to develop enterprise modules across the University's range of courses. Professor Penaluna said: "Most students now have a far better understanding of the real world within their own subject disciplines and a far clearer understanding of how their skills can fit the jobs market. If there isn't a job, setting up on your own becomes a serious consideration. Swansea Met's 'Shut up and Start Up' business club is typical of the kind of activity that works. It brings in ex-students' experiences, and helps them to guide current students toward new opportunities." Professor Penaluna added: "Understanding what happens to students once they leave has been a key factor. Past students keeping in touch with us and passing back their experiences to help us with our current students is invaluable. This is the key strategy that Swansea Met lecturers have employed to achieve such levels of success."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/swansea-met-top-in-wales-for-graduate-businesses/>

## **Development Update**

### **Contract signed for Swansea rail station**

Work is to begin on upgrading Swansea's railway station after the awarding of the first contract. Strategic Team Group (STG) will build a larger concourse and renovate the station front, add an entrance and refurbish the platform canopies. The improvements are led by the Welsh Assembly Government, Arriva Trains Wales, and Network Rail and supported by Swansea Council. As well as a larger concourse area with improved passenger facilities, there will be new waiting shelters, booking office with extra ticket vending machines, toilets, digital information boards, shops and CCTV cameras. The station environment will also be significantly improved with refurbished canopies and modernised fittings that will blend in with existing architecture.

Meanwhile, hundreds of panes of glass are being fitted at the city centre's new Quadrant bus station which should be finished some time in September. Work will then start on installing services that will make the building useable. When completed, the new station will house 20 bus bays, three coach stands, a modern passenger waiting area, ticketing services and Shopmobility facilities.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/contract-signed-for-swansea-rail-station/>

### **Hotel plans are extra boost for gateway revamp**

The transformation of Swansea's High Street has received another boost with plans announced to extend and improve the Grand Hotel, which stands opposite the city's railway station. The Grand Hotel is planning to extend into several neighbouring properties, which will see an additional 15 rooms built. Swansea Council has approved a grant to help fund the improvement of the outside of the building, include new windows, doors and shop fronts. The money will be made available as part of the council's building enhancement programme (BEP) grant, which provides funding towards the improvement of commercial frontages. The hotel has also signed up to the council's Beyond Bricks and Mortar policy, which seeks to maximise opportunities for local employment and training arising as a result of public funding. It is hoped the work will be completed within three months.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/hotel-plans-are-extra-boost-for-gateway-revamp/>

### **Plans to transform Swansea's Dylan Thomas Centre into a cultural hub**

Swansea Council's cabinet have agreed to enter in principle into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Wales and Swansea Metropolitan University for the transformation of the Dylan Thomas Centre into a 21st century hub for culture, creative industries, education and enterprise. Under the proposals, the Dylan Thomas exhibition and literature programme would remain in place, with the current exhibition possibly being improved by adding other iconic figures from across Swansea Bay. The centre would be home to the Dylan Thomas Prize, could offer space for businesses involved in the creative industries, and a workspace for outreach facility studies, including the Welsh Baccalaureate. The finer details will be agreed later in the year.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/plans-to-transform-swanseas-dylan-thomas-centre-into-a-cultural-hub/>

### **Retail Park boost for Swansea**

A Midlands-based property development firm is undertaking an extensive revamp of Swansea's Phoenix Retail Park. Barberry, which is run from headquarters near Stourbridge, will re-configure the car park and provide a new access road from Fendrod Way to the front of the scheme. Budget supermarket chain B&M has already taken 18,900 sq ft of space at the site on a 15-year lease under its brand name of B&M Bargains. According to Barberry the group has seen strong interest in the second phase of the development and refurbishment work is expected to be completed by September. Barberry director Martyn Cartwright said "We are thrilled to see how our hard work has paid off by attracting such a high caliber occupier into phase one of the development. The retail park is extremely well located and our contractors are currently on site with phase two, which provides 50,000 sq ft of retail space and we already have had strong expressions of interest in phase two and hope to be able to announce further commitments from top national retailers shortly."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/retail-park-boost-for-swansea/>

### **Felinfoel to have £900k new sports centre**

A place famous for rugby players and beer is having a new community sports centre costing £937,670 built. Felinfoel's recreation ground is to get a sports hub with changing facilities for cricket, rugby and football teams. The building will also house training rooms and space for health and fitness activities, along with conferencing and function facilities. It is intended that the centre will act as a venue for learning with health and education benefits for the community. Work is due to start in August and the centre is expected to be completed in May next year.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/felinfoel-to-have-900k-new-sports-centre/>

## **Travel link funding for Carmarthen**

Carmarthen is to get a £500k transport link make-over. The long planned improvements have attracted local sustainable travel funding for projects to be completed by April 2011. Carmarthenshire County Council transport chiefs have been informed they have been successful in attracting the money for projects including bus, rail, cycling, walking, park and share and fuel pool car pilots in Carmarthen. County director of technical services Richard Workman said: "We have been waiting for this news for some time. It is an excellent outcome which will enable us to achieve much of what we intended to improve transport links in Carmarthen. It fits in tremendously well with the £74million St Catherine's development."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/travel-link-funding-for-carmarthen/>

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

### **Cerys Matthews joins prize judges**

Cerys Matthews is to join the judging panel for a newly-created category in the 2010 Dylan Thomas Prize. The new Sony Reader Award for Unpublished Writers has been created specifically to support unpublished British novel writers under the age of 30 and entrants must use electronic book formats for the entire process. Former Catatonia singer Cerys, currently working on her own novel, said "As a writer myself, I appreciate the work that goes into trying to get a book published. The Sony Reader Award for Unpublished Writers provides a great stepping stone in helping up-and-coming writers to achieve that end goal. I am really looking forward to judging the category." The winner will be announced at the Dylan Thomas Prize Awards Ceremony on December 1.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/cerys-matthews-joins-prize-judges/>

### **Minnie Driver is Hunky Dory in Swansea**

Hollywood actress Mini Driver, whose father originally hails from Swansea, is in the city working on a new film, Hunky Dory. The film is set in Swansea in the summer of 1976 – the hottest summer the UK has ever seen. It is half-way between a musical and a drama and centres around the trials and tribulations of an idealistic drama teacher as she tries to put on the end of year show; a rock and roll, space age version of Shakespeare's Tempest. Scores of residents gathered to watch filming in Port Talbot, where Minnie was believed to be on site working on the film whilst the set at Bishop Gore School in Sketty filming featured young extras in 1970s-style school uniforms, many recruited from local Class Act Theatre School.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/minnie-driver-is-hunky-dory-in-swansea/>

### **The Wave and Swansea Sound launch the 'Culture and Lifestyle Awards'...**

This September, The Wave and Swansea Sound will be celebrating the very best that Swansea Bay has to offer with a star studded ceremony. The Culture and Lifestyle Awards will be held at Swansea's National Waterfront Museum on Thursday, 30th September and will celebrate the culture, heritage and lifestyle of our area. Awards categories, voted for by listeners of the Wave and Swansea Sound range from Swansea Bay's most popular visitor attraction to the best after dark award. The ceremony culminates with a very special lifetime award honouring an individual or enterprise that has made an outstanding and enduring contribution in Swansea Bay. The awards show will be hosted by Badger and Kevin Johns, DJs at The Wave and Swansea Sound. A spokesperson from the stations said: "South West Wales has so much to offer and we want to honour what is special about our region." The Wave and Swansea Sound are now calling their listeners to nominate the places that they love. To see the full list of award categories and to make your nominations click [here!](#)

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/countdown-is-on-for-culture-and-lifestyle-awards/>

### **...and top the radio charts**

96.4FM the Wave and sister station Swansea Sound are celebrating after once again retaining the number one position in the South Wales Radio Charts according to the latest RAJAR results for Q2 2010 announced in August. The figures show that a massive 177,000 people across South West Wales now tune into the stations each month, which puts The Wave & Swansea Sound ahead of all radio stations in the area, and 75,000 ahead of their nearest commercial competitor. Both The Wave and Swansea Sound can now be listened to in crystal clear stereo on the Swansea D.A.B digital radio multiplex. Programme Controller Steve Barnes said: "Once again we are proud to be number 1, proud of the area we serve and I want to thank all our listeners for making us a part of daily life in South West Wales".

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/the-wave-and-swansea-sound-still-top-of-the-radio-charts/>

### **Penthouse Restaurant 'open again by October'**

SA Brain and Company Ltd is in advanced talks with landlord and Meridian Tower developer Earthquake to take over the Penthouse Restaurant. Brains retail director Philip Lay said the Welsh firm, was very excited about the business at the top of the 350ft tower in Swansea marina, which would be run as a quality venue. He said: "It is a unique site and Brains is one of the most established hospitality companies in Wales. With our experience and the fact we are a company involved in dining, both in pubs and hotels, we feel pretty well equipped to work with it." Mr Lay said Brains would be basing its business model for the Penthouse on its Grape and Olive bar and restaurant in Cardiff which mixes a contemporary style with Mediterranean cuisine alongside a range of beers and wines.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/penthouse-restaurant-open-again-by-october/>

### **Afan Forest Park top 10 for UK biking holidays!**

Afan Forest Park has featured as one of the UK's 10 best biking holidays in the August edition of Mountain Biking UK magazine. The magazine describes Afan Forest Park as a 'South Wales joyride' and says; "There's enough to keep you busy here for ages, with six trails including White's Level and Skyline at Glynccorrwg, and Penhydd and The Wall at Afan. The variety of trails will give you enough options to suit every ability. There's so much riding on offer you won't want to go home!" The Drop-Off Cafe in the Glynccorrwg Visitor Centre is described as 'excellent' and the magazine recommends accommodation at the Afan Lodge and Bryn Bettws Log Cabins as 'bike heaven!'

Please note, the Penhydd is currently closed due to felling work by the Forestry Commission.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/afan-forest-park-top-10-for-uk-biking-holidays/>

### **Margam's ghostly monks are a hit on US television**

The imposing ruins of Margam Abbey and its neighbouring castle have long spawned terrifying tales of cowed spectres or aristocratic ghouls. But now the notorious medieval monks have gained popularity among a new American TV audience. Investigators from popular US show Ghost Hunters International flew from Los Angeles to look into ghostly goings-on at the sprawling estate near Port Talbot. More than a million US viewers tuned into the resulting SyFy Channel investigation at Margam which investigators said was "full of ghosts." As a result of the show, Neath Port Talbot council now believes it could have a new raft of American visitors who want to experience the castle and abbey themselves. Park manager Michael Wynne said: "The history of Margam Country Park and especially the castle and old abbey, is finding its way on to the world map and we are delighted to welcome visitors new and old."

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/margams-ghostly-monks-are-a-hit-on-us-television/>

### **Cyclists take on Swansea's infamous Constitution Hill in the Tour of Britain**

The UK's biggest cycle race is coming to Swansea on Monday 13th September, returning to Wales for the first time since 2004. Team Sky will be taking on the rest of the world in what is being billed as one of the hardest routes for years, no surprise when you realise that the Swansea stage includes a dash up Constitution Hill. Swansea will feature on stage 3, with riders setting off from Newtown, Powys and arriving into Swansea along Neath Road. There will be entertainment at the Kingsway finish line from around 11am, with riders expected to pass through for the first time at around 1:30pm. It'll be all action from there as the riders should be heading up Constitution Hill around 1:35pm before the race winner crosses the finish line around 1:40pm. Spectators are encouraged to enjoy the action from anywhere on the course. Those intending to be in Swansea on 13th September are being advised that there will be a variety of road closures and bus stop changes in place.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/cyclists-take-on-swanseas-infamous-constitution-hill-in-the-tour-of-britain/>

### **Swansea Bay's Admiral 10k race to feature in 2011 Run Britain Grand Prix**

Run Britain has announced that the Admiral Swansea Bay 10K will feature as one of only five races in the forthcoming inaugural Run Britain Grand Prix Series taking place in 2011. The Run Britain Grand Prix is a five race series consisting of the best British 10k and half marathon road races and is open to athletes eligible to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland with a total prize purse on offer in excess of £55,000. The Admiral Swansea Bay 10k is already rated one of the top races of its kind in the UK and has recently been ranked the 6th best PB-friendly race in the UK by the readers of Runner's World Magazine. 2010 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the race, which is taking place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/admiral-10k-to-feature-in-run-britain/>

### **Gower image to feature on new UK passport**

The Gower Peninsula has been unveiled as one of the iconic national images to feature in the new UK Passport. The redesigned UK passport, featuring strengthened security features and iconic images from across the nation, was unveiled last month by Chief Executive of the Identity and Passport Service Sarah Rapson. The Gower Peninsula will feature alongside the White Cliffs of Dover, Ben Nevis and the Giant's Causeway in 10 year passports issued from October 2010.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/new-look-passports-feature-gower-peninsula/>

### **Swansea Bay on show for passengers arriving at Cardiff Airport**

Passengers arriving at Cardiff Airport from all over the world are now being encouraged to 'Discover' and 'Experience' attractions and activities in Swansea Bay. In a collaboration between the Airport and Swansea Bay Futures, two huge illuminated panels, each measuring 4m x 1½m, are located in the baggage reclaim area where each day hundreds of passengers wait to be reunited with their luggage, the perfect opportunity to show travelers the beauty and quality of life on offer across the region. Images on show include the stunning view from Pennard golf course, overlooking Three Cliffs Bay, top UK mountain biking trails in Afan Forest Park, a spectacular image of Llansteffan Castle and the incredible views and natural beauty of Worm's Head, Gower.

<http://www.abayoflife.com/en/news/new-images-to-greet-visitors-to-cardiff-airport/>

## Events and Activities

### GENERAL EVENTS

#### **Bae Fest**

**4 September, from 12pm**

**Swansea Bay, Swansea**

<http://www.baefest.com/>

Wales' largest free beach festival celebrates all that's best about being by the sea. Enjoy a day of music, arts and crafts and sport including beach volleyball and a surfer's chain. Includes the Gower Battle of the Paddle race, supported by the British Stand Up Paddle Association

#### **The Welsh Festival of the Horse**

**4 & 5 September**

**Margam Park, Margam**

[http://www.npt.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2487&event\\_id=6327](http://www.npt.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2487&event_id=6327)

This two day 'gala' festival of equestrian excellence and canine fun is back by popular demand. There will be demonstrations of horsemanship, displays, stalls, amazing stunt riding and an array of traders to tempt you with outdoor specialist shopping.

#### **Gower Climbing Festival**

**10 – 12 September**

**Gower Peninsula**

[http://www.gowerclimbingfestival.co.uk/Gower Peninsula](http://www.gowerclimbingfestival.co.uk/Gower%20Peninsula)

Successfully held for the first time in 2009 and organised by the British Mountaineering Council, this is an opportunity to experience climbing on a range of routes across Gower

#### **Swansea Open House**

**11 & 12 September**

**Venues across Swansea**

<http://www.swanseaopenhouse.com/>

Swansea Open House is a free event that provides a once a year chance to see inside buildings not normally open to the public. The event showcases the gems of our built environment, as well as providing a fascinating glimpse of what goes on behind closed doors with a range of guided tours and exhibits.

#### **Ffos Las Race Day: Real Ale Festival**

**12 September**

**Ffos Las, Trimsaran, Nr Llanelli**

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

Fancy winning your wife's weight in ale? The person who is able to carry their partner the furthest wins their partners weight in ale! There will also be live music with a chance to sample some of the finest Real Ale with Felinfoel Brewery and not forgetting top class racing.

#### **The Tour of Britain Cycle Race – Welsh Stage**

**13 September**

**Constitution Hill, Swansea**

[http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/ns\\_race/default.asp?section=stage3\\_route](http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/ns_race/default.asp?section=stage3_route)

The Tour of Britain returns to Wales for the first time since 2004. After a gruelling ride from Newtown, Powys, contenders face the challenge of Swansea's Constitution Hill before a finish on Kingsway. (Please note that there will be road closures in place around the route)

#### **The Gower Cycling Festival**

**18 – 25 September**

**Gower, Swansea**

<http://www.wheelrights.org.uk/gowercyclefest.htm>

Chose from 18 rides offering a mix of distances and difficulties from a gentle four mile ride ideal for all the family to a challenging 61 mile Swansea Valley route which offers riders the opportunity to explore the countryside and enjoy stunning views over Swansea Bay.

## **Welsh School of Architectural Glass exhibition**

**Until 19 Sept**

**National Waterfront Museum, Swansea**

<http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/swansea/>

The Welsh School of Architectural Glass at Swansea Metropolitan University presents a spectacular display of work by graduates as part of the 75th anniversary of Europe's oldest architectural glass course.

## **Starmania 2010 Sci-fi Convention**

**25 & 26 September**

**Liberty Stadium, Swansea**

[http://www.starmania2010.com/starmania2010\\_home.html](http://www.starmania2010.com/starmania2010_home.html)

Probably the largest sci-fi convention in Wales. With guests from all over the world of science fiction who will answer questions, pose for pictures and sign autographs.

## **Admiral Swansea Bay 10k**

**26 September from 11am**

**Mumbles Road and Swansea Foreshore**

<http://www.swanseabay10k.com>

If you're not already registered to take part then you can still enjoy the spectacle of 3,500 runners in this, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this hugely popular event. It is and one of the top 10k races in the UK and offers plenty of entertainment, including a mascots' race, for spectators to enjoy alongside the action. Under 11's can try out the 1k, or 9 – 14 year olds can take on the 3k and 15 – 20 year olds could take part in the 5k options. Main race starts at 1pm.

## **The Wave and Swansea Sound's Culture and Lifestyle Awards**

**30 September, 7pm**

**National Waterfront Museum, Swansea**

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

A glamorous night celebrating everything that is great about Swansea Bay. The awards show will be hosted by Kevin Johns of Swansea Sound and Badger from the Wave and will be attended by a roll call of major celebrities.

### **BUSINESS EVENTS:**

#### **Vibe@Charlies,**

**Charlies bar, Prospect Place, Swansea**

**08 and 22 September, 5pm**

[www.vibetv.tv](http://www.vibetv.tv) / [www.charielsdining.co.uk](http://www.charielsdining.co.uk)

Free informal get-together with like-minded individuals to help build business networks and establish new contacts and leads

#### **Liberty Stadium Business Show**

**16 September, 10am**

**Liberty Stadium, Swansea**

<http://www.liberty-stadium.com/businessshow/>

Swansea's original business show returns in 2010 with a brand new concept! This year's show has been designed to assist all business-minded people across the region in boosting their sales!

#### **Callaghan Lecture with Vince Cable**

**23 September, 12 – 3.30pm**

**Marriott Hotel, Swansea**

[http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show\\_event.asp?id=212](http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show_event.asp?id=212)

Enjoy a two course lunch with key note speaker, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Rt. Hon Vince Cable as part of the ninth Chambers of Commerce Business Week.

#### **Nordic Innovation Networks**

**28 September, 8.30 – 10.30am**

**Village Hotel, Swansea**

<http://www.kewales.com/>

Find out more about how Welsh business can learn from globally successful Scandinavian models. For more information or to register for the event contact [r.williams@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:r.williams@swansea.ac.uk)

**Marketing Mix Roadshow**  
**28 September, from 10.30am**  
[www.regionalroadshows.co.uk](http://www.regionalroadshows.co.uk)

**The LC, Swansea**

This event will take a closer look at the marketing opportunities that are available to businesses, with a focus on the Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality industry. There will be presentations, breakout sessions, and exhibitors from both the public and private sector offering business support, advice and marketing services. Please call Tourism Swansea Bay on 01792 403339 for more information – booking for this event is essential.

**South Wales Chamber of Commerce: Breakfast for Champions**  
**29 September, 7.30 – 10am**

**The Bluebell Hotel, Neath**

[http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show\\_event.asp?id=201](http://www.southwaleschamber.co.uk/show_event.asp?id=201)

Experts from the banking, legal and insurance services sectors share their tricks and tips at this networking breakfast. Visit the website to book your place.

**Engineering Business Breakfast**  
**30 September, 7.45am – 10am**

**Sketty Hall, Swansea**

<http://www.swancoll.ac.uk/node/1139>

Representatives from SEMTA, the Dragon Innovation Partnership, Swansea University, the Welsh Assembly Government and specialist tutors from engineering and work based learning will be available to answer your questions at this event held in collaboration with the Dragon Innovation Partnership and the School of Engineering at Swansea University and the Business College. Contact 01792 284400 or email [businesssolutions@swancoll.ac.uk](mailto:businesssolutions@swancoll.ac.uk) to find out more.

**Swansea Bay Women in Business Awards 2010**  
**30 September, 12pm**

**The Mermaid Restaurant, Mumbles**

Join the shortlisted candidates for the Swansea Bay Women in Business Awards lunch. Call Eleri Walters on 01972 514112 to book your tickets.

## Contact

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