CYMDEITHAS EISTEDDFODAU CYMRU

BETH YW EISTEDDFOD?

WHAT IS AN EISTEDDFOD?

Cystadleuaeth flynyddol rhwng cantorion, cerddorion, llefarwyr, beirdd, llenorion a dawnswyr yw'r eisteddfod fodern. Cynhelir eisteddfodau mawr a bach ledled Cymru ac mewn gwledydd fel Patagonia. Y rhai mwyaf yw'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd ac Eisteddfod Ryngwladol Llangollen. Mae dau fath o gystadlu sef Cystadlaethau Llwyfan (e.e dawnsio, canu, llefaru, actio a.y.b.) a Chystadlaethau Cartref (e.e. gwaith llenyddol, celf a chrefft, gwyddoniaeth a.y.b.)

Yr eisteddfod gyntaf y gwyddom amdani yw Eisteddfod Aberteifi, Nadolig 1176. Fe'i cynhaliwyd gan Yr Arglwydd Rhys yn ei lys yn Aberteifi. Cyn ei chynnal, anfonodd y tywysog genhadon i bob cwr o Gymru i gyhoeddi'r ŵyl, ac o ganlyniad, daeth nifer fawr o feirdd a chantorion i gystadlu yn yr eisteddfod honno.

Mae'r traddodiad eisteddfodol wedi parhau hyd heddiw, gydag eisteddfodau o bob maint a math yn digwydd o flwyddyn i flwyddyn.

EISTEDDFOD LEOL

Ar hyn o bryd mae dros 100 o eisteddfodau lleol yng Nghymru sy'n denu ymhell dros 10,000 o ddilynwyr a dros 5,000 o gystadleuwyr o bob oed. Cynhelir y rhan fwyaf ohonynt ar nos Wener neu ddydd Sadwrn mewn neuadd bentref/tref, mewn capel neu neuadd yr ysgol leol. Bydd rhai eisteddfodau'n cael eu cynnal dros gyfnod o brynhawn a gyda'r nos, a rhai dros ddau neu dri diwrnod. Erbyn hyn cynhelir eisteddfod neu eisteddfodau ym mhob mis o'r flwyddyn, a'r rheiny'n llawn cystadlaethau amrywiol i bob oedran. Bu'n rhaid ymateb i her yr oes, adeg pandemig Covid-19, ac o ganlyniad fe fentrodd nifer o eisteddfodau yn ddigidol a chynnig cystadlaethau a beirniadaethau ar-lein. Gwelwyd bryd hynny fod posibilrwydd y daw trefnu digwyddiadau hybrid yn boblogaidd.

EISTEDDFOD YSGOL

Dyma draddodiad sy'n unigryw i ysgolion Cymru, ac mae nifer o ysgolion uwchradd a chynradd yn cynnal eisteddfod bob blwyddyn fel rhan o ddathliadau Gŵyl Ddewi. Gan amlaf fe'i cynhelir hi yn neuadd yr ysgol, neu weithiau mewn neuadd bentref/tref, a bydd y disgyblion a'r staff i gyd yn mynd yno i fod yn rhan o'r gynulleidfa. Mae'r disgyblion, sy'n aelodau o "dimau" neu "dai", yn cystadlu ar bob math o gystadlaethau i geisio ennill pwyntiau i'w tŷ. I nifer o'r ieuenctid dyma fan cychwyn cystadlu mewn eisteddfodau.

EISTEDDFOD DDIGRI

Fel mae'r enw'n awgrymu, mae eisteddfod ddigri (sy'n aml yn cael ei chynnal mewn tafarn) yn cael ei threfnu er mwyn yr hwyl a'r elfen gymdeithasol, ac weithiau i godi arian at achos da efallai. Cystadlaethau hwyliog, ysgafn a geir mewn eisteddfod fel hon, â'r rheiny'n cynnwys pethau fel dweud jôc, sgwennu penillion gwirion a garglo caneuon cyfarwydd, i enwi ond ychydig. Cewch lond eich bol o hwyl a chwerthin mewn 'steddfod ddigri mae hynny'n siwr!

EISTEDDFOD YR URDD

(Daw'r isod o wefan yr Urdd. Am fwy o wybodaeth am yr Eisteddfod ewch i www.urdd.cymru)

Mae Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd, un o wyliau teithiol mwyaf Ewrop sy'n denu tua 90,000 o ymwelwyr ar draws chwe diwrnod, yn cael ei chynnal bob blwyddyn yn ystod wythnos y Sulgwyn.

Gŵyl gystadleuol yw hi gyda dros 15,000 o blant a phobl ifanc o dan 25 oed yn cystadlu bob blwyddyn mewn cystadlaethau megis canu, dawsnio a pherfformio. Rhain yw'r gorau o tua 40,000 o gystadleuwyr ledled Cymru sydd wedi ennill eu lle yn Genedlaethol yn dilyn Eisteddfodau Cylch a Rhanbarthol sydd yn cael eu cynnal yn ystod misoedd y gwanwyn, cyn yr ŵyl genedlaethol.

Canolbwynt yr Eisteddfod yw'r Pafiliwn ble mae'r cystadlu yn digwydd, ond yn amgylchynu'r Pafiliwn mae cannoedd o stondinau lliwgar sydd yn cynnig ystod eang o weithgareddau ar gyfer y teulu cyfan - o feiciau modur, dringo a sesiynau chwaraeon, i ffair, bandiau byw a sioeau plant gyda chymeriadau teledu. Yn ogystal â hyn gallwch ymweld â'r Arddangosfa Gelf sydd yn gartref i holl waith cystadlaethau Celf, Dylunio a Thechnoleg yr Eisteddfod.

Pinacl tua tair blynedd o waith caled gan wirfoddolwyr o'r ardal leol yw wythnos Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Mae'n cael ei ddarlledu yn helaeth yn y cyfryngau, yn cynnwys y teledu, radio a'r wasg leol a chenedlaethol.

YR EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL

(Daw'r isod o wefan yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Am fwy o wybodaeth ewch i www.eisteddfod.cymru)

Mae'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn ddathliad o ddiwylliant a'r iaith yng Nghymru, ac fe'i chynelir yn ystod wythnos gyntaf Awst bob blwyddyn. Mae'r ŵyl yn teithio o le i le, gan ymweld â gogledd a de Cymru bob yn ail, a denu tua 150,000 o ymwelwyr a thros 250 o stondinau.

Yn draddodiadol, mae'r Eisteddfod yn ŵyl gystadleuol sy'n denu dros 6,000 o gystadleuwyr bob blwyddyn. Mae'r ŵyl ei hun wedi datblygu ac esblygu dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac er bod y cystadlaethau yn ganolbwynt ar gyfer yr wythnos, mae'r Maes wedi tyfu i fod yn ŵyl fywiog gyda channoedd o ddigwyddiadau a gweithgareddau ar gyfer y teulu cyfan.

Yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yw'r ffenest siop berffaith i gerddoriaeth, dawns, celfyddydau gweledol, llenyddiaeth, perfformiadau gwreiddiol a llawer mwy. Gan gwmpasu pob agwedd ar y celfyddydau a diwylliant yng Nghymru, mae'n ŵyl gynhwysol a chroesawgar, sy'n denu miloedd o ddysgwyr Cymraeg a'r rhai nad ydynt yn siarad yr iaith, yn ogystal â siaradwyr Cymraeg, bob blwyddyn. Ceir offer cyfieithu yn ystod yr wythnos, a chanolfan arbennig ar gyfer dysgwyr ar y Maes.

Disgrifiwyd yr Eisteddfod fel prosiect adfywio teithiol blaenaf Cymru, ac wythnos yr Eisteddfod yw uchafbwynt prosiect cymunedol sy'n para dwy flynedd, gan ddod â phobl o bob oedran a chefndir o gymunedau mewn rhan wahanol o Gymru ynghyd bob blwyddyn. Gyda chymysgedd o waith all-ymestyn, prosiectau addysg gydol oes a chyfleoedd gwirfoddol, mae'r prosiect cynmunedol yn llywio'r paratoadau ar gyfer yr ŵyl, gan roi cyfle i bobl leol wneud eu marc ar ein gŵyl genedlaethol.

Mae'r rhan fwyaf o awduron, cerddorion a beirdd blaenllaw Cymru wedi cystadlu yn yr Eisteddfod, gyda llawer o berfformwyr yn ymddangos ar lwyfan cenedlaethol am y tro cyntaf yn ystod yr ŵyl.

CYSTADLU MEWN EISTEDDFODAU

Mewn eisteddfodau, fel arfer, mae dwy fath o gystadleuaeth:

* **Cystadlaethau llwyfan yn ystod yr eisteddfod ei hun (e.e canu, llefaru, dawnsio)**
* **Cystadlaethau a gaiff eu cwblhau yn y cartref a'u beirniadu cyn yr eisteddfod (e.e celf a chrefft, ffotograffiaeth, llên)**

CYSTADLAETHAU LLWYFAN

Yn y rhan fwyaf o'r eisteddfodau lleol nid oes rhaid cofrestru i gystadlu, dim ond cyrraedd ar y dydd/noson gyda chopi ar gyfer y beirniad a'r cyfeilydd o'r hyn rydych am ei berfformio. Os oes angen cofrestru o flaen llaw, fe fydd y manylion hynny yn y rhaglen/rhestr testunau. Mae'n debygol mai mewn eisteddfodau lleol mwy o faint bydd hyn yn digwydd. Bydd angen llenwi ffurflen gystadlu/gofrestru a'i hanfon at swyddogion yr eisteddfod. Pwrpas hynny yw cael syniad cyn yr eisteddfod o sawl un fydd yn cystadlu. Weithiau bydd eisteddfod yn cynnal rhagbrawf er mwyn torri'r nifer o gystadleuwyr lawr i'r tri neu'r pedwar gorau, a nhw'n unig fydd yn cael mynd ymlaen i berfformio a chystadlu ar lwyfan yr eisteddfod.

GWOBRAU

Gall gwobr mewn eisteddfod amrywio yn ôl cystadlaethau a maint yr eisteddfod, o dystysgrif neu roset, i arian, medal, cwpan neu darian.

Prif wobr sawl eisteddfod yw Cadair neu Goron. Enillir rhain am ysgrifennu barddoniaeth neu ryddiaith, a chynhelir seremoni arbennig i goroni neu gadeirio'r bardd/llenor buddugol.

CYSTADLAETHAU CARTREF

Mae eisteddfodau lleol yn cyhoeddi taflen neu lyfryn sy'n cynnwys rhestr o'r holl gystadlaethau llwyfan a chartref. Rhaglen neu Restr Testunau yw'r enw ar y rhestr hon, ac mae hi ar gael fisoedd lawer cyn diwrnod yr eisteddfod. Os ydych am gystadlu mewn eisteddfod leol disgwylir i chi anfon eich gwaith i'r eisteddfod gan ddefnyddio ffugenw. Yn yr un amlen neu barsel â'ch gwaith bydd disgwyl i chi roi eich enw go-iawn a manylion cyswllt mewn amlen wedi'i selio. Os ydych chi'n ennill fe fydd ysgrifennydd yr eisteddfod yn cysylltu â chi gyda'r newyddion da. Os na fyddwch chi'n llwyddiannus ni fydd unrhyw un byth yn gwybod eich bod wedi cystadlu.....a cholli!

OEDRAN CYSTADLU

Mae rhai yn poeni wrth fynd i eisteddfod y byddant yn gorfod cystadlu yn erbyn rhai hŷn a mwy profiadol na nhw. Fel arfer mewn eisteddfodau mae cystadlaethau'n cael eu gosod ar gyfer oedrannau arbennig. Gallwch fod yn siwr bod rhywbeth mewn eisteddfod ar gyfer pob oed, o blant oedran meithrin i bobl sydd dipyn go lew yn hŷn. Dyna sydd mor braf am eisteddfod, bod y genhedlaeth iau a hŷn yn cyd-ddathlu eu talent, i gyd dan yr un to.

DYSGWYR

Mae gan y rhan fwyaf o eisteddfodau wahanol lefelau o gystadlaethau sy'n arbennig ar gyfer unigolion, neu grwpiau, sy'n ddysgwyr Cymraeg ac yn siaradwyr newydd.

WHAT IS AN EISTEDDFOD?

An eisteddfod can be described, simply, as a yearly competition for singers, musicians, reciters, poets, writers and dancers. Large and smaller eisteddfods take place throughout Wales, and also in countries such as Patagonia. The largest are the National Eisteddfod, the National Urdd Eisteddfod and Llangollen International Eisteddfod. There are two kinds of competitions usually - stage competitions (dancing, singing, reciting, acting etc) and homework competitions (literature, arts & crafts, photography etc).

As far as is known, the first eisteddfod took place in Cardigan, Christmas 1176, in Lord Rhys's castle. Missionaries had been sent beforehand to announce the festival in every part of Wales. Many poets and musicians came to compete in the eisteddfod.

This tradition remains to this day, with different eisteddfods, of varying sizes, taking place every year.

A LOCAL EISTEDDFOD

Currently there are over 100 "local" eisteddfodau in Wales, which attract well over 10,000 followers and over 5,000 competitors of all ages. Most of these take place on a Friday evening or on a Saturday, usually in a village/ town hall, in a chapel or in the local school hall. Some eisteddfodau take place in the afternoon and evening and some are held over two or three days. By now we have one or more eisteddfod in every month of the year, and each one consists of a variety of competitions for all ages. During the Covid-19 pandemic, and in response to the challenges faced, many eisteddfodau ventured into the digital world and offered competitions and adjudications on-line. This highlighted the possibility that organising hybrid events could become a popular choice for eisteddfodau.

A SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD

This is a tradition that is unique to schools in Wales, and many secondary and primary schools have an eisteddfod every year as part of St. David's Day celebrations. It usually takes place in the school hall (or in the village/town hall) and all the pupils and staff gather as an audience. Pupils are split into "houses" or "teams" and compete in all kinds of competitions, in an attempt to win points for their house. For many youngsters this is their first taste of competing in an eisteddfod.

A HUMOROUS EISTEDDFOD

As the name suggests, a humorous eisteddfod (which is often held in a pub) is organised purely for fun and for the social element, but is sometimes a fundraiser for local good causes. The competitions in an eisteddfod such as this are very different to those in a traditional eisteddfod, and may include telling jokes, writing nonsense poems and gargling familiar songs. It is a very light-hearted experience, guaranteed to give you a good laugh!

THE URDD EISTEDDFOD

(The following information can be found on the Urdd website. For further details about the Eisteddfod visit www.urdd.cymru)

The Urdd National Eisteddfod, one of Europe's largest youth touring festivals that attracts around 90,000 visitors each year, is held during Whitsun week at the end of May.

The Eisteddfod is a competitive festival with over 15,000 children and young people under the age of 25 competing during the Eisteddfod week in various competitions such as singing, dancing and performing. They are the elite few from around 40,000 competitors across Wales who have won their place following local and regional rounds held in the spring months leading up to the Eisteddfod.

The 1,800 seater Pavilion is the home of the competitions and is very much the hub of the Eisteddfod. Surrounding the Pavilion, on the 'Maes', you will find hundreds of colourful stalls offering a range of activities for all the family - from biking, climbing and sport sessions to a fun fair, live bands and children's shows with some well known TV characters. As well as all this you can visit the Art Display which is made up of pieces of work produced in the Eisteddfod's Art, Design & Technology competitions.

The Urdd Eisteddfod week is the pinnacle of around three years hard work by local volunteers. It attracts a lot of attention from the press including TV, radio and local and national newspapers.

THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

(The following information can be found on the National Eisteddfod website. For further details visit www.eisteddfod.cymru)

Held during the first week of August every year, the National Eisteddfod is a celebration of the culture and language in Wales.

The festival travels from place to place, alternating between north and south Wales, attracting around 150,000 visitors and over 250 trade stands and stalls. Traditionally a competition-based festival, attracting over 6,000 competitors every year, the festival has developed and evolved over recent years, and whilst the competitions form the central focus for the week, the Maes (site) itself has grown and developed into a vibrant festival with hundreds of events and activities for the whole family.

The Eisteddfod is the natural showcase for music, dance, visual arts, literature, original perfomances and much more. Encompassing all aspects of the arts and culture in Wales, it is an inclusive and welcoming festival, which attracts thousands of Welsh learners and those who do not speak the language as well as Welsh speakers every year. Translation services are available in the Pavilion and bilingual information is available. We also have a centre for learning Welsh on the Maes.

Described as Wales' leading mobile regeneration project, Eisteddfod week is the highlight of a two year community project, bringing together people of all ages and backgrounds from a different part of Wales every year. With a mix of outreach work, lifelong learning and volunteering opportunities, the community project steers the preparations for the festival, giving local people a chance to make their mark on our national festival.

Most of Wales' leading writers, musicians and poets have competed at the Eisteddfod, with many performers appearing on a national stage for the first time during the festival.

COMPETING IN AN EISTEDDFOD

An eisteddfod usually has two types of competitions:

* **Stage competitions during the actual eisteddfod (singing, reciting, dancing)**
* **Competitions which are done at home and are adjudicated before the eisteddfod itself (arts & crafts, photography, literature)**

STAGE COMPETITIONS

In most local eisteddfodau you will not be asked to register to compete, only to arrive on the day with copies of what you intend to perform - one for the adjudicators and one for the accompanist. If you are required to register beforehand, the details can be found in the eisteddfod programme/competition list. This is usually the case in a larger local eisteddfod. You will need to complete a registration form and send it to the eisteddfod officials. This is done as a rough guide to the number of competitors they can expect. Occasionally, prelims will be held in order to whittle down the number of competitors to the best three or four, who will then go on to perform and compete on the eisteddfod stage.

HOMEWORK COMPETITIONS

An eisteddfod produces a leaflet or booklet with a list of all the competitions - stage and homework. This is referred to as a programme or a competition list (RHESTR TESTUNAU), and is available many months before the eisteddfod takes place. If you wish to compete you will be asked to send your work to the eisteddfod using a pseudonym. Your real name and details will need to be place in a separate sealed envelope, and included in with your entry. If you are successful, the eisteddfod secretary will contact you with the good news. However, if you don't succeed no one will ever know that you have competed.....and lost!

COMPETITORS' AGES

It can be a worry for some that they will have to compete against other competitors who may be older and more experienced than them. Eisteddfod competitions are usually divided into age groups, and you can be sure that there is something to suit every age - from Nursery aged children to the significantly more mature. This is what makes an eisteddfod so special, that both young and the older generation can celebrate their talent together under the same roof.

PRIZES

Prizes can vary depending on the competitions and also the size of the eisteddfod. Competitors may be lucky enough to receive a certificate or rosette, or even money, a medal or a trophy. The main prize in many eisteddfodau are a Chair or a Crown. These are awarded for poetry or prose, and are presented to the winner during a special ceremony.

WELSH LEARNERS

Almost all eisteddfodau have competitions for individuals or groups who are at different stages/levels of learning the Welsh language, and are new Welsh speakers.

DANGOSWCH EICH CEFNOGAETH!

Yn ogystal â bod yn ddigwyddiadau cymunedol a chymdeithasol sydd o bwys diwylliannol enfawr, mae eisteddfodau yn cynnig profiadau gwerthfawr ac amrywiaeth o gyfleoedd i feithrin a datblygu talentau. Rydym ni, fel Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru, yn cynnig cyngor a chefnogaeth i eisteddfodau lleol ledled Cymru, ac yn hyrwyddo'r holl weithgareddau ar ein gwefan. Mae'r holl wasanaethau a gynigir gennym yn rhad ac am ddim i aelodau'r Gymdeithas. I ymaelodi gofynnir i eisteddfodau dalu £20 y flwyddyn.

Felly, cofiwch gefnogi ein heisteddfodau, a dewch i ni gael cadw'r traddodiad arbennig yma yn fyw!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Not only are they community, social events of great cultural importance, the eisteddfodau also offer a wide range of valuable opportunities to nurture and develop talents. We, as Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru (which can be translated as the Society of Wales' Eisteddfodau), offer advice and support to local eisteddfodau throughout Wales, and promote all associated activities on our website. All the services that we offer are free of charge to members of the society. The yearly membership fee for an eisteddfod to join Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru is £20.

So, remember to support our eisteddfodau and let's keep this special tradition alive!

CYMDEITHAS EISTEDDFODAU CYMRU

Ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by Welsh Government

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