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WELSH BOOKS COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

With the cancellation of the Urdd Eisteddfod and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, everyone was pleased that the Hay Literary Festival went ahead this year. We are now in the middle of the Summer Reading campaign and look forward to the National Eisteddfod which will be held in Denbigh in August.

SUMMER READING

The period 8-23 June was a very busy time for 6 Welsh publishers, as they worked together on the Summer Reading initiative. It had all been arranged by Literary Publishers (Wales) Ltd., the consortium of six Welsh publishers.

The festival had been organised to highlight the range of English-language books from Wales, and, through a number of local events, to give a taste of what is available. Twelve publications were featured throughout the festival, six of which are brand new titles.

'The aim of the festival was to develop our relationship with Welsh booksellers and readers, primarily by bringing authors and the public into direct contact with each other,' said Richard Houdmont, chairperson of LPW.



WALES BOOK OF THE MONTH

100 Great Welshmen, by T. D. Breverton, was the chosen title for the Wales Book of the Month for June, and we were able to send some press cuttings to each shop for their display. The July title is *The Wisdom of Wales – A Collection of Proverbs*, Paul Barrett (UWIC)

SUPPORT FOR THE READING CARNIVAL

Thanks to support from the National Assembly, the Books Council has secured funding to produce bilingual promotional material for this year's Reading Carnival. This initiative is organised by LaunchPad, on behalf of public libraries, to encourage 4-11 year olds to read during the summer holiday. The promotional material includes stickers, posters and games, and all library authorities in Wales have joined the scheme.



BOOK REVIEWS

The Books Council are in the process of placing the first book reviews on the www.gwales.com website. The three reviews editors are busy organising the work – Janet Davies is in charge of the reviews of the English-language books for adults, Elizabeth Schlenther editing the reviews of English-language children's books, with Gwennlian Dafydd on the Welsh-language side.

We are sure that the new service will be appreciated by readers and buyers alike, and that it will assist in promoting books from Wales. The next step will be to include readers' comments on the site.

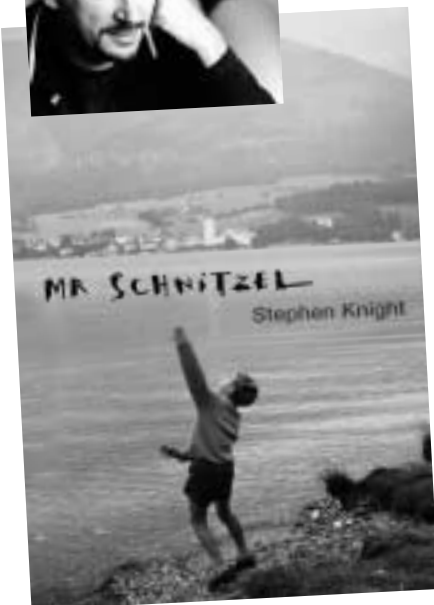
BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS



The Arts Council of Wales announced at the Hay Literary Festival that this year's winners of the 2001 Book of the Year award were Stephen Knight and Owen Martell.

Stephen Knight was the English-language winner for his first novel, *Mr Schnitzel*, based on the author's own childhood and the magical stories told to him by his father. The Welsh-language winner was Owen Martell, for *Cadw dy ffydd, brawd*, another first novel.

Sybil Crouch, ACW chair, noted that this year's competition was especially encouraging because the titles were their authors' first publications, showing the strength of new writing in Wales.



THE ASSEMBLY DISCUSSING PUBLISHING

Jenny Randerson, the Assembly Minister for Culture, Sports and the Welsh language, has announced that a Task & Finish Group is to be set up to look at ways of simplifying the Books Council's funding arrangements and also to take a strategic look at developing publishing in Wales. This will include consideration of the *Working Together* Strategy, produced following the Grant Thornton Review of the Publishing Grant for Welsh-language Publishing. The group will be chaired by the Deputy Minister, Delyth Evans. The Books Council look forward to discussing these proposals with the group.

NOVEL OF THE MONTH

The Welsh-language novel of the month campaign has been running for over twelve months, and we would like to extend our thanks to publishers and booksellers for their co-operation in promoting Welsh fiction. Booksellers are always welcome to contact us if they would like to join the campaign and to receive the poster and counter pack to promote sales.

These are the titles for the coming months:

- ❖ **July** – *Ein Llyw Cynta'*,
Twm Morys (Gomer)
- ❖ **August** – *Y Ddynes Ddirgel*,
Mihangel Morgan (Y Lolfa)
- ❖ **September** – *Llafur Cariad*,
Gareth Miles (Hughes)

CYMRU'N CREU

Cymru'n Creu, the consortium set up by the National Assembly and chaired by the Assembly Minister for Culture, Jenny Randerson, has met twice in recent months. The consortium includes a cross-section of organisations working in the field of culture and the arts.

One development worth noting is that a sub-group has been set up, on the Books Council's suggestion, to look at ways of developing a closer relationship between organisations representing books and literature and the broadcasting media.

CONTACT

The next issue of *In Print* will appear in August. Could you please send any information for the next issue by the middle of July to:

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THE FRIENDS MEET MARION EAMES

The Friends of the Books Council had a most successful meeting at Aberystwyth recently, when Professor M. Wynn Thomas interviewed the author Marion Eames about her work. She discussed the background to her novels and the different themes running through her work.

A report on the meeting with Marion Eames will appear in the next issue of *The Friend*, the magazine for the Friends of the Books Council, which will be distributed in July. Please contact Elwyn Jones at the Books Council if you would like to receive a membership form for the Friends.

Marion Eames with Professor M Wynn Thomas



SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Once again the Books Council are producing a supplement of Welsh-language titles that will be published this summer. As well as being distributed through the *papurau bro*, copies will also be available through bookshops and libraries. We are again grateful to the publishers and booksellers for their support, which has enabled us to produce a 12 page full-colour supplement. We hope that the attractive supplement will assist in promoting sales during the summer.



AT THE EISTEDDFOD

The Welsh Books Council will have a stand at the National Eisteddfod at Denbigh where a wide range of books will be featured, with particular emphasis on new and local titles.

The Books Council have also arranged a meeting at the Literary Pavilion at 2pm on Wednesday afternoon, 8 August. This year, the Books Council have worked closely with Eisteddfod officials to present a programme in honour of the late Dafydd Rowlands.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING

The Books Council's half-yearly meeting was held on Monday 18 June at Aberystwyth. During the meeting, Geraint Lewis, the Book Council's Honorary Secretary, gave a talk on the importance of literacy that he had recently presented to the Assembly's Culture Committee.

DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

As many of you will be aware the Books Council's website www.wbc.org.uk has been re-designed recently, and the information is up-dated regularly to include the latest information about the Council's activities and the book trade in Wales. We hope that you have an opportunity to browse the site, and you are welcome to contact us with your comments.



HONOURING ANNE FINE

The author Anne Fine was honoured recently with the title Children's Laureate. Some of you will recall the memorable talk she gave at last year's Children's Books Conference at Abergele. We are sure that she will do her utmost to promote children's literature and we wish her well with the work.