

Welsh Language Project

Annual Report 2015

Gareth Kiff LL.B B.Ed

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Overview

Since 1997, the Welsh Language Project (WLP) has been promoting and developing the Welsh language in the Chubut region of Patagonia, Argentina. Every year, three Language Development Officers from Wales spend the period from March to December teaching in Patagonia. They develop the language in the Welsh speaking communities through both formal learning and informal social activities.

There is also a permanent Learning Co-ordinator from Wales based in Patagonia, who is responsible for the quality of teaching.

Another aspect of the project is a network of Patagonian Welsh language tutors in the region. By visiting Wales, attending Welsh language courses and participating in school observation visits, we help maintain the teaching standards and latest methodologies that are implemented in Patagonia.

The Scheme is managed by the Welsh Language Committee, including members from the Welsh Government, the Wales Argentine Society, Menter Patagonia and the Welsh for Adults Centre, School of Welsh, Cardiff University.

The project which consists of reciprocal visits, teaching and training has achieved considerable recognition and success at an international level.

Approach and syllabus

We work in three catchment areas: the Andes, Gaiman and Trelew. We offer a wide range of courses from beginner level to refresher courses for fluent Welsh speakers. We hold these courses in the nursery, primary, secondary and adult sectors.

Welsh Language Development Officers teach a range of courses including Wlpan, Further, Advanced and Mastering. Courses created by The Welsh Centre for Adults, Cardiff University, adapted for Spanish and Welsh contexts, are used.

Funding

The Welsh Government, the Wales Argentina Society (Cymdeithas Cymru-Ariannin) and British Council Wales fund this project, which is part of the International Education Programme. The Chubut government and other bodies also provide funding to support the teaching of Welsh and the wider Welsh community.

History

2015 marks 150 years since the first Welsh settlers arrived in Patagonia.

Wales and Patagonia are bound by tradition, history and language. The permanent settlement of the Chubut Valley and surrounding areas began on 27 July 1865. A total of 153 Welsh settlers arrived aboard the Mimososa.

Now, in the early 21st century, around 50,000 Patagonians are of Welsh descent.

Targets for 2015

- Send three Development Officers to teach and organise Menter Patagonia's language-based social activities. Within the Valley, the aim has been to recruit a tutor to specialise in developing nursery and primary education in the Andes.
- Employ one Learning Coordinator in Y Wladfa (Welsh Patagonia).
- 1200 learners in Welsh lessons.
- Establish a partnership through Connecting Classrooms.

All of the above targets were met

Key Successes

- Three officers were sent to Patagonia. One to the Andes to undertake 50% teaching and 50% Menter Patagonia work. Two to the Valley, with both teaching for 75% of the time and spending 25% each on Menter Patagonia work.
- A total of 1220 people undertook Welsh courses. (The total in 2014 was 1174) the highest number in the history of the Scheme. This is an increase of 3.9% year-on-year and 25% since the start of the 3-year cycle (2012-2015). (There were 977 people in 2012).
- Welsh for Adults classes have attracted the highest number in the Scheme's history, namely 280 people compared with 279 in 1997 when the Scheme began. There was an increase of 12 people this year but an increase of 104% since the beginning of the current 3-year cycle.

- An increased number of classes - 104 compared with 90 in 2014, 83 in 2013 and 79 in 2012. The highest number in the history of the Scheme.
- Connecting Classrooms – A partnership was established between Ysgol Gymraeg Gaiman and Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth.
- Significant developments in primary education in the Valley and the Andes. See pages 10 - 14.
- 14 adults have passed the WJEC's Welsh for Adults examinations at Entry, Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels. This year saw learners from Y Wladfa passing examinations at all levels for the very first time. See *the outcomes on page 9*.
- Contributed to conducting a large number of tours and events by different organisations and groups e.g. The Urdd, Catrin Finch, BBC Orchestra, several theatre companies and of course the First Minister, Carwyn Jones

Impact of the Scheme

Statistics

1 Learning Coordinator - Clare Vaughan

1 Administrative Coordinator – Luned Gonzalez

3 Teachers/Menter Patagonia Officers

Eluned Jones (The Andes) (50% teaching and 50% Menter Patagonia)

Ann-Marie Lewis (The Valley) (75% teaching and 25% Menter Patagonia)

Fabio Lewis (The Valley) (75% teaching and 25% Menter Patagonia)

32 local teachers/tutors

Number of classes:

104 classes in 2015 (90 in 2014, 83 in 2013 and 79 in 2012)

The highest number in the history of the Scheme

Gaiman (including Dolavon)	Trelew (including Rawson, Porth Madryn and Comodoro)	The Andes
52 (39)	25 (27)	27 (24)

Number of learners: *The highest number in the history of the Scheme*

	Gaiman	Trelew	The Andes	TOTAL
2015	739	200	281	1220
2014	722	251	201	1174
2013	657	171	157	985
2012	607	145	225	977
2011	582	133	131	846
2010	527	85	150	762
2009	474	76	153	703
2008	378	97	112	587

Numbers according to catchment area age ranges: *2014 numbers are in brackets.*

	Nursery	Post-nursery	Primary school children	Teenagers	Adults	Total
Gaiman	54 (48)	46 (36)	215 (247)	333 (323)	91 (68)	739 (722)
Trelew	8 (14)	15 (10)	77 (113)	0 (0)	100 (114)	200 (251)
The Andes	69 (74)	12 (5)	94 (10)	17 (26)	89 (86)	281 (201)
Total	131 (136)	73 (51)	386 (370)	350 (349)	280 (268)	1220 (1174)

The total of 1220 is the highest number in the history of the Scheme.

This represents an increase of 3.9% year-on-year and 25% since the start of the 3-year cycle (2012-2015). (977 people in 2012).

There was a total of 573 learners in 1997, when the Scheme officially started, which means that there has been a rise of 113% since then.

The total of 280 represents the highest number of Welsh adult learners since the Scheme began.

The progress made last year in the Andes has been sustained and developed due to the resurrection of courses in a Spanish-medium school in Esquel.

There has been a fall in numbers at primary level in Gaiman due to second language classes and it should be noted that the exciting developments seen this year with Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman are highly likely to lead to more children receiving bilingual education.

Despite the fall in Trelew (primary) the figure is very similar to the 2013 figure (82). A possible explanation for this is the financial situation and parents not having the extra income to pay school fees.

Numbers according to language levels - Adults

	Pre-Entry	Entry (Wlpan 1)	Foundation (Wlpan 2)	Intermediate (Further)	Advanced and Mastering	Proficiency (Refresher)	Ref
Gaiman	42 (8)	8 (28)	15 (6)	3 (0)	2 (8)	21 (18)	91 (68)
Trelew	20 (32)	41 (50)	16 (15)	12 (0)	0 (2)	11 (15)	100 (114)
The Andes	29 (42)	13 (6)	14 (7)	16 (3)	10 (13)	7 (15)	89 (86)
Total	91 (82)	62 (84)	45 (28)	31 (3)	12 (23)	39 (48)	280 (268)

The total of 280 represents the highest number in the history of the Scheme. In 1997, there were 279 adult learners. However, it must be remembered that the 'official' Scheme had just started and adults were the main focus of the work, representing nearly half (49%) of all learners. Adults now account for approximately 23% of all learners in Y Wladfa, which is the same percentage as last year. The fact that the Scheme attracts so many people after nearly 20 years is a clear indication that interest remains very strong amongst members of Y Wladfa.

Despite the relatively small increase this year, this should be considered in light of the progress made over the course of five years and, of course, the fact that only 72 adults were learning the language back in 2009.

2011 114
 2012 137
 2013 174
 2014 268
 2015 280

The above figure shows good progression on the whole between pre-entry courses last year and Wlpan 1 (Entry) this year, with a significant increase in terms of Wlpan 2 (Foundation) and Further (Intermediate). There was a fall in relation to Advanced/Mastering/Proficient numbers but this was to be expected. This year, it was not possible for everyone to attend classes due to all the celebrations marking the 150-year Anniversary, as those individuals were often responsible for organising or coordinating events. This shows that the above total could rise to 300+ in the future, continuing along current lines and attracting the 'fluent' learners back in 2016.

Hours according to catchment areas

	Gaiman (including Dolavon)	Trelew (including Rawson, Porth Madryn and Comodoro)	The Andes (Esquel and Trevelin)	Total
Nursery	20 hours 20 mins	17 hours 30 mins	16 hours 40 mins	54 hours 30 mins
Post-nursery	17 hours 20 mins	17 hours 30 mins	3	37 hours 50 mins
Primary school children	18 hours	91 hours 20 mins	9	118 hours 20 mins
Teenagers	20 hours	0	10	30 hours
Adults	16 hours 45 mins	34 hours 20 mins	32	83 hours 5 mins
	92 hours 25 mins (91 hours 40 mins)	160 hours 40 mins (150 hours 20 mins)	70 hours 40 mins (59 hours 30 mins)	323 hours 45 mins (301 hours 30 mins)

This year saw more hours than ever before. This year, due to the 2015 celebrations, Chubut Province increased the number of paid hours.

We have seen a continuous rise in the number of weekly hours over a period of five years, namely 60 hours 45 minutes or nearly 19% since 2011.

323 hours 45 minutes in 2015

301 hours 30 minutes in 2014

310 hours 40 minutes in 2013

245 hours in 2012

263 hours in 2011

WJEC Examinations (Welsh for Adults)			
ENTRY			
<i>Pass/Fail</i>			
	Catchment area	Mark (400)	OUTCOME
1	Trelew	347	Pass
2	Trevelin	246	Pass
3	Trelew	306	Pass
4	Gaiman	334	Pass
FOUNDATION			
Pass, Fail (240 – 319) or Distinction (320 +)			
1	La Plata/Esquel	344	Distinction
2	Mendoza	270	Pass
3	Comodoro	265	Pass
4	Esquel	200	Fail
5	La Plata/Trelew	250	Pass
6	Esquel	353	Distinction
7	Comodoro	241	Pass
8	Gaiman	216	Fail
9	Trevelin	248	Pass
INTERMEDIATE			
Pass, Fail (240 – 319), Distinction (320 +)			
1	Esquel	284	Pass
ADVANCED			
Grade A: 300 - 400		Grade D: 160 - 199	Fail
Grade B: 250 - 299		Unclassified: 0 - 159	Fail
Grade C: 200 - 249			
1	Gaiman	333	Grade A
2	Gaiman	323	Grade A

This is the first year in the history of the Scheme to see candidates at all examination levels which shows the status and purpose accorded by learners to sitting an external examination. It is wonderful to be able to praise learners at all levels who have, against all the odds, endeavoured to learn a second language and study for an exam and the local tutors, as well as the officers from Wales, who have worked with the students in order to prepare them for the tests, must be commended. Emyr Davies from the WJEC should also be thanked for allowing us to participate in the examination process.

One small issue was how to ensure that the certificates reached Y Wladfa, considering current difficulties sending anything in the post due to import rules, so thanks to the kindness of Eirian Wyn Lewis and the crew of travellers, the candidates will receive their certificates! An example of effective collaboration between both countries. (*Clare Whitehouse – Learning Coordinator*)

Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman

After years of waiting, the school was given official status in 2013 and this year, in July, the school moved to a new building in Gaiman located on the site of the former 415 school.

One major issue faced by the school in the past was the condition and size of its former site. Moving to the new building will allow for better planning and, in terms of the parents, the new building feels like a 'real' school which will certainly give the school greater status. It must be remembered that parents pay a monthly fee of 600 pesos for 10 months of the year in order to

receive a bilingual education, therefore the status and condition of buildings etc are important factors in attracting new people. Indeed, the rise in numbers over the years, despite all the obstacles, is significant so the school should have a thriving future in its new home.

This was in evidence during the monitoring visit in July when new children were seen joining the school within weeks of moving to the new site.

This year, for the very first time, there has been a Year 1 class and during the monitoring visit there were 64 children at the school, with that figure on the rise. As the school grows, it would be possible to educate approximately 150 children ultimately, but it is likely that additional classrooms would have to be built in three or four years in order to achieve this.

However, success can lead to other problems and one obvious challenge facing the teachers has been to ensure that latecomers can integrate with bilingual education successfully without impairing the ability of other children to use the Welsh language. Providing fully bilingual education can be challenging in a situation where not every member of staff is a fluent Welsh speaker. Scheme teachers have given staff lessons and contribute to lessons in order to ensure that the Welsh language is ever present during the day.

The school needs to undertake careful planning in order to ensure that the Welsh language receives the attention it deserves and in discussions with school managers it appears that this will happen. The Scheme itself is able to support them in several ways, including providing practical support to plan the curriculum and make best use of educational and human resources. In 2013, Eluned Jones worked in Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman on behalf of the Scheme and worked with them very successfully. In 2015, Eluned moved to the Andes to assist with setting up Ysgol y Cwm mainly. The Scheme is fortunate to be able to appoint her again this year and, in 2016, she will work in Gaiman again focussing on primary education. Such progression and continuity is important and the school will benefit from her vast experience next year.

In 2016 Cylch Ti a Fi for 3 and 4 year olds will be held from 07.50 - 12.30.
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be held from 07.50 - 14.50.

The school is looking at ways of attracting and keeping children and, to this end, a Clwb Cymraeg (Welsh language Club) was established, which is held twice a week, (Tuesday 17.00-19.00 and Thursday 17.30-19.00). The school's staff and Scheme teachers are responsible for this important development.

Another example of the school's progressive work is its Connecting Classrooms partnership with Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth. A delegation from Wales has already been to Gaiman to observe and exchange ideas and, in January 2016, a teacher from Gaiman will travel to Aberystwyth.

The Scheme has also provided a scholarship for a music teacher at the school so that she can come to Wales and observe in 2016.

This school's importance to the future of the Welsh language in the Valley and in the Welsh-speaking heartland of Y Wladfa cannot be overemphasised. Due to old age, the old cohort of native Welsh speakers is being reduced every year and it is only through bilingual education that we will be able to produce enough Welsh speakers. Without a doubt, there are major challenges in terms of budget, resources, staff and, at times, a lack of understanding amongst the region's education authorities of the nature of bilingual education. The Scheme will need to support each one of these aspects but, in doing so correctly, it is possible to achieve the aim and ensure that the Welsh language has a flourishing future in Gaiman.

Ysgol y Cwm Developments- Autumn 2015

Background

Since 2013, and as a result of the successful work done by the Welsh Language Learning Scheme, work has been ongoing to ensure that there is a live memorial to mark 150 years since the first Welsh settlers arrived in Y Wladfa. Despite a number of interesting and valuable projects, the feeling in Trevelin was that something needed to be done which would secure the future of the language and therefore the culture. The process of working with the Government to create the necessary documentation began and the land opposite the historic chapel was put on the market in order to start building what would be a primary school in the future.

Today, Phase I of the building bears a striking resemblance to a school but the interior needs to be completed, fitting flooring, lighting, toilets, a kitchen, painting, furnishing...Thanks to Cymdeithas Gymraeg Trevelin (Trevelin Welsh Society) we have now reached the stage where we are at: 1.5 million pesos was pledged by the Government but, thus far, despite repeated requests we have only received 33,000. Thanks must also be given to the carpenter Marcelo Roberts who works free of charge and who ensures that we have an expert at hand to go after the workers and local Council.

The greatest issue for us at the moment is the political situation. Should the political landscape change, who knows what may happen to the funding promised. We live in hope but with a high level of uncertainty and as time passes parents must start to search for schools for their children. If the Government does not provide us with the final figure it will be very difficult for us.

How we work today

The Nursery class is currently in attendance every afternoon from 13.40 - 17.00 under the care of the Spanish teacher Jessica Hopkins and with a Welsh-medium colleague working alongside her, Jessica Jones, who has worked with the youngest children for many years and who now sees the fruit of her labour, Eluned Jones, our Scheme officer this year, who is sharing her expertise with us, Iwan Madog who is employed by an individual in order to allow us to offer all the provision we desire this year in such a special year, Eluned Grandis, a former officer, who is now married and lives in the Cwm, and Margarita Green who has attended courses in Wales and who now teaches others, without mentioning the local teachers who provide PE and Music lessons, namely Camila Itxassa and Maria de Oro.

Teamwork is at the heart of everything and we have been so fortunate to find Jessica Hopkins; although she doesn't speak Welsh she understands what we are trying to achieve and supports the project 100%. This year the school employs her so there are significant disadvantages in terms of pension years etc but she is with us. We have produced a list of potential individuals and posts to take to the Government so that they can provide the funding from February onwards, including some hours for Welsh speakers such as teaching partners alongside the Spanish teachers.

We have found a qualified teacher to undertake the role of Head at the school and, despite the fact that she does not speak Welsh, she is close to the community and therefore understands our vision. Another two teachers who are about to leave college have also been to observe in order to see if they support the kind of work we are trying to do and, if salaries are available, it is likely that they will take over the new classes.

This year, due to the presence of Eluned Jones, an expert in young children's work, we have been able to implement a rota system where the children have been attending sessions in both Welsh and Spanish, in the hope that this will also be possible next year too. The cooperation between Jessica Hopkins and Eluned Jones has been crucial to the success of the project this year and is an excellent basis for what will follow.

Once the school is ready, all the language workshops which have taken place at the old Chapel House will be able to move to the new building, in the hope that the old House will be able to be renovated and used as accommodation by the officer coming from Wales and/or volunteers who we hope will come to help us. Everyone is looking forward to teaching in a brand new building but there is much to do still. The hope is to start teaching 2016 lessons in the new building but more funding from the Government would ensure that this happens. There is a lack of places in

schools in Trevelin so this is beneficial as we are solving the issues faced by the town's schools but for a price.

The future

We sent the school's Curriculum Project along with a revised copy of the school's Education Plan to the Government before the elections (25 October) in the hope of receiving a prompt reply with regards to the final figure. Creating a school from nothing is no easy task, especially as we are people who love the language and culture but who have never had to provide a reason for what we do: that is because Chubut Province Government does not have a bilingual schools policy so we have to be 'multi-cultural' and justify what we are seeking to do.

In order to continue good practice, we need input from the Scheme's 2016 officer as well as hours from the Government for the Welsh and Spanish teachers and assistants but, as the 2015 timetable shows, there are a number of funding streams available to us to achieve the work.

You only need to look at the faces of the children as they sing or are given the opportunity to touch a harp or plant seeds or cook to see the value in what we are doing and this is what keeps us going in the face of adversity. The School Committee is a very special group of people and it is hoped that we can build on their work as the school grows. *CLARE VAUGHAN*

Menter Patagonia

The following objectives were set for Menter Patagonia in 2009:

1. Real efforts must be made to make the use of Welsh the norm in a range of social scenarios – to extend its use socially.
2. A wide range of situations, events and activities where Welsh can be spoken quite naturally must be planned – between 10 and 13 hours each week in each location – between 20 and 26 hours a week in the Camwy Valley and similarly in the Andes foothills. The following activities could be suggested.
3. Activities for nursery children and their parents. This could be an opportunity to engage parents and get them to come to a Welsh class – at least one session per week.
4. Activities for primary school children – sports, crafts, painting and handicraft, games, nature and the environment, folk dancing, singing/drama groups, Saturday morning playgroups, holiday clubs, hobbies etc. (two age levels meeting twice a week).
5. Activities for secondary school children – Aelwyd yr Urdd, sports, outdoor activities, cultural activities, social activities. (two sessions a week if possible).
6. Regular social activities for adults. - quizzes, fashion shows, cookery, food tasting, discussion or debating groups, conversational groups, different hobby groups, IT classes for beginners, rambler clubs, cycling, mountaineering, skiing, luncheon club, 'noson lawen' (variety evenings), talks and lectures, folk dancing, picnics, excursions, film nights etc.
7. Cooperating with local Welsh societies to inspire them - such as the eisteddfod, competition gatherings, the chapels.
8. Seeking to extend the visual use of Welsh locally. - the radio, museums etc.

The Scheme has funding to employ one person for Menter Patagonia activities. Therefore, in order to ensure that Menter Patagonia has a presence in both areas, the posts are actually 0.5 FTE.

Eluned Jones spent 50% of her time on Menter Patagonia's work in the Andes, whilst Ann-Marie Lewis and Fabio Lewis spent 25% each of their time on Menter Patagonia's work in the Valley.

Menter Iaith Dyffryn Camwy Events 2015

This has been an exceptionally busy year for Menter Patagonia in the Camwy Valley, with a vast array of different activities taking place in order to promote the use of Welsh in the Valley.

A personal highlight for us has been presenting Patagonia's Learner of the Year Trophy. This is the competition's inaugural year and we are extremely proud of the fact that we have introduced it and that five chose to compete. We very much look forward to announcing the name of the winner in the Eisteddfod. Menter Patagonia is contributing \$1000 pesos as prize money and the Eisteddfod's Committee is presenting a medal.

We have highlighted the need for online Welsh language programming at an international level. S4C has added more programmes to the collection available on S4C clic and all current CYW programmes are available live on CYW TIWB. This is an invaluable tool for developing the verbal skills of the children here. CYW TIWB can be watched in Ysgol y Gaiman and Ysgol yr Hendre Moreno.

As a result, we organised several events in Trelew and in the Centre for Culture in Gaiman to show programmes on Patagonia, e.g. the Huw Edwards programme - Patagonia, and GALESA. GALESA had subtitles and as a result approximately 60 people were present in Gaiman to watch the show and everyone had a slice of Torta Negra on the way in!

We have arranged several Welsh language services this year and have endeavoured to conduct a monthly service at Bethel Chapel in Gaiman. In addition, we have arranged Welsh language services in some of the Welsh language chapels in the Valley - Glan Alaw and Salem, Lle Cul. The response has been superb with the small chapels full to the brim. Another highlight for us will be the Carols and Candles Service in Glan Alaw Chapel in December, where everyone will bring a candle with them. Several individuals from the Welsh-speaking community in the Valley have been happy to lend a hand and we are very grateful to them for doing so!

Elin Fflur and Casi Wyn have been entertaining large crowds in Boru, Trelew, arranged by Menter Patagonia and Welsh Classes in Trelew. These were hugely entertaining evenings which attracted people from outside the usual Welsh circle and a large number of young people were also present!

A series of evenings were held on the History of Wales across the Valley in the company of Frank Holloway, with Tito, Ana and Luned doing the translation. Approximately 40 were present in Porth Madryn.

This year, we have sought to hold events in the Upper Valley. A Fy Ardal I (My Area) day was held in Tir Halen, with Nivia Owen and Leila MacDonald at the helm talking about their experiences of growing up in the area. The Museum was opened for us, along with Tir Gobaith, the historic farm, where we enjoyed socialising with a picnic in the sunshine under the willow trees.

As Menter Patagonia, we also travelled to Llain Las and Bryn Crwn Chapel.

A curry night with a bit of sing-song was held in Ysgol yr Hendre, Moreno.

A pizza night and discussion on Y Fari Lwyd was held by Suzanne Condon from the Welsh for Adults Centre, Cardiff University at Gwalia Lân.

A Twmpath (Folk Dance) was also held at Ysgol yr Hendre, Rivadavia under the guidance of Suzanne Condon.

We celebrated Spring Day here by walking around Chiquichano Lake in Trelew, with a tasty mate to finish.

We celebrated Book Day, immediately after arriving here, by going around Gaiman taking pictures of various people with a Welsh book.

We celebrated Shwmae Su'mae Day here and pupils from Coleg Camwy produced and completed a quiz on Wales.

We filmed at the Tir Halen Craft Show and raised awareness of the language amongst non-Welsh speakers. A policeman even spared a few words for the camera!!

Menter y Dyffryn was very busy with translation work, voiceovers, interviews, recordings, and helping local businesses to use a little Welsh in their advertising.

We were responsible for placing a big blackboard outside Tŷ Camwy - Camwy's Welsh Corner - which had an idiom and the word of the week on it alongside advertisements in order to draw pupils' attention to the language. It proved very popular!

As Menter Patagonia, we followed Wales in the Rugby World Cup and Welsh speakers and learners joined us at the Touring Club, Trelew and Genesis, Gaiman to socialise and watch the games! We had a lot of fun!

We have endeavoured to have a Menter Patagonia and family presence at as many 150 events as possible, taking part as and when required, by reading, singing solos in various chapel services and concerts across the Valley. Reading Edwyn Cynrig Roberts' letter in a memorial service on the sand dunes by the caves at Porth Madryn was a very personal and emotional experience for me. Both of us were also members of the Ysgol Gerdd (Music School) Choir and attended several concerts and Eisteddfodau.

Menter Patagonia was busy at the Youth Eisteddfod, translating and adjudicating, and as we approach Eisteddfod Y Wladfa, we will be training, adjudicating, presenting, and responsible for the Learner of the Year ceremony.

As Menter Patagonia, and family, we have attended every Eisteddfod held this year. Eisteddfod Trevelin – competed with the Ysgol Gerdd choir; Eisteddfod Dolavon competing and training individuals for the recitation competitions; Bethel Chapel's Mini Eisteddfod where Ifan and Miriam competed individually and with Ysgol y Gaiman, trained by us; Eisteddfod Mimosa where the children competed and Tito and myself adjudicated the translation work and provided coaching. This is also where the Learner of the Year competition was launched; Youth Eisteddfod training, children competing, adjudicating and translating and Eisteddfod Y Wladfa, where we will once again be training, competing, adjudicating, presenting and responsible for one of the main ceremonies.

We helped organise the Urdd's Trip.

Menter Patagonia helped with a number of visits this year, including undertaking a fair amount of interpreting for people such as Elin Fflur, Casi Wyn, Dafydd Tudur and Berian Ellis from the National Library, the Music adjudicator Eric Jones and his wife, Gwen, Cefyn Burgess from the Wool Museum in Drefach.

Menter Patagonia, along with the Eisteddfod's Committee, were responsible for a visit by the well-known music adjudicator, Eric Jones, who spent six days in Gaiman with his wife, Gwen. We accompanied them around the Valley and spent a wonderful afternoon in Mercante in Nolavon, he conducted his own composition 'O Fab y Dyn' and rehearsed with the Ysgol Gerdd choir.

Special thanks must be given to the women of Dolavon, under the guidance of Nivia Owen, who were kept busy preparing many a delicious tea for visitors to the area - Eric and Gwen Jones, Dafydd Tudur and Berian Ellis. We will also enjoy an afternoon with Hazel Charles Evans shortly. Dolavon Speakers class are reading her book, Siwrne 13, and each one of us has been affected by what we have read. We were all therefore very keen to spend an afternoon with Hazel in order to discuss the book. Hazel has agreed to visit Dolavon and there will be a special tea awaiting her. I would like to underline the importance of arranging events in Dolavon and Tir Halen - there is a very enthusiastic and hard-working crew here!

Several young visitors from Wales have been here during the year and, as Menter Patagonia, they have been welcomed by us, and we have spent a great deal of time in their company. Tŷ Camwy's door is always open, with a mate on the table ready and waiting!

As Menter Patagonia, we assisted with the examinations held in Gaiman.

We helped friends here with the support of friends from Wales - thanks to Catrin Jones for collecting several CDs requested by Graciela Puw for us, for her radio show - Cornel o Gymru yn Chubut.

A Literary Circle was held here at the Centre for Culture and a crew of us came together under the guidance of Eryll Roberts to discuss some poetry from Eisteddfod Y Wladfa.

As part of the Literary Festival weekend, we organised a very valuable Skype session with some pupils from Ysgol yr Hendre, Trelew. The children thoroughly enjoyed their poetry session with the children's poet laureate, Aneurin Karadog! Tito also did some translation in Gaiman.

Menter Patagonia had a stall at the Agricultural Fair in Gaiman and the Book Fair and events were held to promote the Welsh language there.

We attended several actos with the children to mark significant dates in Gaiman. Ifan was given the opportunity to act as flag bearer on several occasions.

Several socials/picnics were held here to welcome visitors from Wales.

We were very busy with two Welsh women from Gaiman, tidying and painting around the grave of John Lewis, Caernarfon, on the prairie before sharing a picnic together in Welsh at the Indians' Ford! We still hope that a sign will be erected here to mark the spot - we have written to Cymdeithas Dewi Sant (St David's Association).

Menter Patagonia will travel to Argae Florentino Ameghino at the end of the year - a great opportunity to end a jam-packed year together!

Menter Patagonia Activities in The Andes- Eluned Jones

	Event	Date	Numbers	Comments
February	Welcome Tea at Ysgol Gymraeg yr Andes, Esquel	Monday February 23	14	Two volunteers, namely Alan Lloyd and Haydn Jenkins, were also present from Wales.
	Special Meeting at Seion Chapel, Esquel to discuss Celebrations. Supper at the Esquel Centre. Everyone was welcomed.	Tuesday February 24	28 Full Meeting	Inspirational speeches by the visitors Marc Phillips, Lord Dafydd Wigley, Elinor Bennett and Elvey MacDonald. Harp recitals by Elinor Bennett. It was a special social evening with the guests.

	Afternoon tea at Tŷ Te Nain Maggie, Trevelin.	Wednesday February 25	25	The tea was organised by Isaias Grandis.
	Visit to the Ysgol y Cwm site at Trevelin with the Carpenter, Marcelo Roberts.		15	There was an opportunity to examine the plan for the new school and the high quality work was praised.
	Esquel March.	Thursday evening February 26		Representation from the Welsh classes (Approx. 30)

	Trevelin March including open-air entertainment in the middle of town in front of Salon Central.	Friday evening February 27		Representation from the Welsh classes (Approx. 50) Cwm Hyfryd Dancers - Jessica Jones (14) Harp Recitals by Gwenan Gibbard
February 28th – March 1st	Patagonia Celtica.	Saturday and Sunday afternoon February 28 and March 1st		Various activities were arranged for the children and adults on the Welsh classes stall at Trevelin and Menter Patagonia. An opportunity therefore to register for the year.
March	Bethel y Cwm's Cymanfa Ganu.	Sunday Morning Tuesday 1st	A good congregation	
	Social Evening at the Esquel Centre - Rhisiart Arwel, Gwenan Gibbard, Colin Edwards and Mervyn Evans.	Monday evening March 2nd	The hall was comfortably full	Wonderful to welcome a number of visitors from Wales. Successful evening.
	An interview with the journalists Paula and Jeremy Dear from BBC Wales' Wales Department in English at the Esquel Centre	Monday March 16th	5	Liliana Celia Carballo, Michael Edgar Winter and Eluned Jones answered questions and shared their experiences with the two journalists.

	The journalists Paula and Jeremy Dear (BBC) visited Ysgol y Cwm, Trevelin	Tuesday March 17th	8 pupils	They spent time observing and filming activities at the school.
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March–April	<p>Presentation by Frank Holloway (former history teacher acting as a volunteer here) at the Esquel Centre.</p> <p>Another interesting presentation at the Trevelin Agricultural Fair.</p> <p>Presentation at the Esquel Centre.</p>	<p>Saturday March 28th</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>April 4th</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>April 11th</p>	<p>25</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Presentation –</p> <p>History of Wales up until 1800. Small nation long history. Protest and Respectability.</p> <p>He held weekly presentations for a month at Salon Central in Trevelin during his stay.</p> <p>Presentation –</p> <p>History of Wales in the 20th Century. Recession and Revival. Modern Wales.</p>
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				<p>He spent time in lessons with local tutors in schools, colleges and adult speaking groups.</p> <p>Very interesting presentations.</p>
April	Walking Tour to Mynydd Llwyd and a Welsh Tea	Sunday April 12th	75	Fundraising activity to support two youngsters from Esquel who were lucky enough to be chosen as cast members for the 'Mimosa' Musical by Theatr Clwyd/ Urdd Gobaith Cymru. Ryan Lloyd and Michael Winter came to Wales to take part before performing in Y Wladfa.
	<p>Two services were held to mark Thanksgiving and Easter.</p> <p>The morning service at Bethel y Cwm Chapel and then a service and communion at Seion Chapel in Esquel.</p>	<p>Sunday April 19th</p>	<p>18</p> <p>15</p>	This was the first time that members had had a communion since Hazel Charles Evans' visit.

	Isaias Grandis led the service.			Light refreshments were provided at the Centre after the service
	A Quiz Night and Entertainment – Quincho Gorsedd y Cwmwl.	<p>Saturday evening</p> <p>April 25th</p>	35	A special evening was held.

	Acto at School 18 / Carreg Holdich Unveiling/Honouring the women of the local community for their contribution and service in the area. The Eisteddfod's Opening Concert at Club Fontana, Trevelin.	Thursday April 30th		Cwm Hyfryd Dancers, trained by Jessica Jones, took part in the Acto. A number of local artists sang / choirs / dancers.
May	Prelims and Trevelin Eisteddfod. Harp Workshop with Eyllt Nest Roberts. Trevelin Eisteddfod	Friday May 1st Saturday May 2nd		A very enjoyable day. I arranged activities for the children on Menter Patagonia's stall throughout the Eisteddfod.

	Cymanfa Ganu at Bethel y Cwm Chapel Concert at Salon Central	Sunday Morning May 3rd Sunday Evening May 3rd	Full chapel	Exhibition of letters and postcards from Wales
	Evening to welcome Jeremy Knobel home from Llandovery College. He won the Mr Tom Gravell Scholarship.	Friday evening May 8th	35	Jere's presentation included pictures from his trip. Various items by Meirion Griffiths, Michael Winter and the Twmpath Dawns under the guidance of Iwan Madog. Light refreshments.
	Elin Fflur's concert at Centro Cultura Melipal Esquel. Elin Fflur was accompanied by the 'Heno' crew under the skilled guidance of the director, Emyr Penlan, who undertook filming and interviews during the week.	Friday evening May 15th	Full Theatre	This special evening was organised by Esquel's Welsh Society. There was also local entertainment.

	Service at Seion Chapel, Esquel. The service was led by Isaias Grandis.	Sunday May 17th	20	Volunteers from Wales were welcomed, namely Gwenno Healy and Dylan Jenkins. Gwenno sang a beautiful solo. Both helped out with lessons in general during their visit.
June	Harp Lessons with Esyllt Nest Roberts at Ysgol Gymraeg yr Andes Trevelin. Fondue Night at Quincho Gorsedd y Cwmwl	Saturday June 13 Saturday evening June 13	Individual lessons and Group Workshop 30	Presentation and interesting group lesson. A fun night of entertainment.
	A morning service at Bethel y Cwm Chapel led by Heledd and Andras Iago.	Sunday June 14th	18	It was good for everyone to socialise with the two visitors over the course of the weekend.
June 29 - July 9th Santander Students	A service at Bethel y Cwm Chapel led by Isabel and Steffan.	Sunday July 4th Tuesday evening	20	Isabel Thomas and Steffan Bryn were very active and worked with Ysgol 24 Luis

Isabel Thomas / Steffan Bryn	Twmpath Dawns in the company of Jessica Jones, Trevelin Dancers and two Santander Scholarship students from Cardiff University.	July 7th		Jorge Fontana Esquel, with the Welsh classes in Esquel and Trevelin. It was a pleasure to have the students' support. This gave me an opportunity to spend time observing and working together at Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman.
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July	<p>Celebrating the 150 year anniversary in the Andes</p> <p>Opening Ceremony in Trevelin</p> <p>Unveiling of the Stone Twinning Trevelin and Cardigan.</p> <p>Visit by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, accompanied by representatives from the British Council in Buenos Aires and representatives from different Welsh language Organisations and Societies at the Felin in Trevelin.</p>	<p>Tuesday July 28th.</p> <p>Wednesday July 29th</p>	Large crowds attended each event	<p>I was given the honour of carrying the Welsh Flag at the Ceremony by the Mimosa memorial in Trevelin and enjoyed watching the tiniest dancers entertaining the crowds, under the guidance of Jessica Jones, before going on to share greetings on behalf of Cardigan at the ceremony unveiling the twinning stone in front of the Big Mill.</p>
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	<p>Landing Festival Concert at Salon Central Trevelin followed by the Landing Festival Supper in Esquel. Concert at the Esquel Gymnasium.</p>	<p>Friday July 31st</p> <p>Saturday evening August 1st</p>		<p>Presentations, light refreshments and socialising and watching the dancers.</p> <p>It was a pleasure to welcome Mr Aled Eurig, Chair of the British Council, Mr Gareth Kiff, Academic Monitor and the Scheme's Chair in Patagonia, and Suzanne Hay, BBC Orchestra, who was here arranging Catrin Finch's visit. Some very interesting entertainment was provided on the night.</p>
August	<p>'Calon Arloesol' performed by a Professional Theatre Company from Buenos Aires</p> <p>Service and</p>	<p>Friday evening August 7th</p>	<p>Full gymnasium 15</p>	<p>It was wonderful to see two young pupils from Chubut Province sharing the stage with this professional cast. Helen Green and Maite Arce.</p>

	Communion at Seion Chapel, Esquel, led by Isais Grandis.			
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	Drama workshop led by Tim Baker, director of the musical 'Mimosa', at the Esquel Centre	Sunday evening August 16th	40	There was also local entertainment.
	Three members of the Clwyd Youth Branch were interviewed on Radio Nacional Esquel.	Monday August 17th.	Theatre and Hall were jam-packed.	An opportunity to socialise and enjoy some light refreshments at the Centre afterwards.
	'Mimosa' Performance Auditorio Municipal de Esquel.	Monday August 17th.		The cast of professional actors and Urdd youngsters mingled well with the locals. Q&A and light refreshments.
	Performance Salon Central Trevelin.	Monday August 17th		Advertising the Show and providing an outline of the history and tour.
		Wednesday evening August 19th.		A thrilling and unforgettable performance, with two of our local heroes, Ryan Lloyd and Michael Winter, benefiting enormously from this experience not only through performing but socially too.

	A Social Evening at the Esquel Centre to say our goodbyes.	Thursday evening August 20th		They were also welcomed by Ryan and Michael's families at home.
	Volunteer - Suzanne Condon who is a Welsh tutor at Cardiff University.	Tuesday August 25th - August 30th		An opportunity to meet and socialise in Esquel and Trevelin. Tasted a wonderful Asado at La Barra.
	Presentations on the Mari Lwyd at the Esquel Centre and Salon Central Trevelin.	Saturday August 29th and Tuesday evening 1st September.		A feast and entertainment before saying goodbye to an incredible cast. These performances will stay with us forever.
				Suzanne visited various classes during the week and went about teaching the primary children at School 24 Luis Jorge Fontana.

September - October - November	<p>A visit by Dafydd Tudur and Berian Rhys Ellis from the National Library in Aberystwyth.</p> <p>A visit by the Lighthouse Theatre, Swansea.</p> <p>A Social Evening at the Centre organised by Llinos, Adrian and Sonia (Lighthouse Theatre) and local entertainment.</p> <p>Shwmae / Su'mae Day!</p>	<p>September 22nd - September 25th</p> <p>October 13th - October 17th</p> <p>October 16th</p> <p>October 15th</p>	<p>Approximately 10 per session 60</p>	<p>Two sessions at the Esquel Centre and two sessions at the Felin, Trevelin. An opportunity to bring material to scan and record family history.</p> <p>A timetable was prepared by Iwan Madog so they were given the opportunity to attend local Schools in Esquel and Trevelin and a harp workshop was also held. During the visit to Ysgol y Cwm it was lovely to see each one of the younger pupils having the opportunity to play.</p>
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	<p>The Urdd's Annual Trip 2015.</p> <p>Social Activities - Twmpath with the Cwm Dancers and the teenagers.</p> <p>Visit to School 25 Villa Futalufquen in the National Park, where they had the opportunity to listen to a presentation on the school, play football which is an annual international activity www.futbolrural.org.ar Plant trees in the woodland.</p> <p>Visit to School 24 Esquel, the Esquel Centre, Tour around Esquel.</p> <p>Visit to the Old People's Home in Trevelin, Ysgol y Cwm, Individual homes.</p> <p>Asado to welcome Catrin Finch and Urdd Youth in Trevelin.</p> <p>Rafting on the Corcovado river</p>	<p>October 22 - 26th</p> <p>Thursday evening 22nd Friday 23rd</p> <p>Friday 23rd Afternoon</p> <p>Friday evening 23rd</p> <p>Saturday 24th</p> <p>Saturday evening 24th</p>	<p>Urdd crew 3 Leaders 7 boys 18 girls 130 Jam-packed</p>	<p>Thanks to Iwan Madog for preparing material and producing interesting clips on Facebook.</p> <p>It was lovely to see everyone getting along so well.</p> <p>Singing the National Anthems outdoors.</p> <p>The two groups had to be split in the afternoon (14 in Esquel and 14 in Trevelin)</p> <p>A wonderful evening which included local entertainment.</p>
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Catrin Finch's concert at Centro Cultural Melipal Esquel.	Sunday 25th	50	50	It was wonderful to hear two young learners from Esquel having a conversation in Welsh.
Asado in Quincho 'Gorsedd Y Cwmwl'	Monday 26th	Chapel was full.		Various items of a high standard by the youngsters.
A service at Bethel Chapel, Trevelin led by the Urdd	Morning Afternoon			Walked over to the farm and were given the usual welcome by Charly and Margaritta Green. A wonderful asado and an opportunity to ride horses, walk and enjoy the view before the service at 6 o'clock in Bethel y Cwm Chapel.
A walk to see the Felin and Malacara's grave / Tŷ Taid (Grandfather's House)	Sunday November 1st Sunday evening			
Ysgol y Cwm – Activities at the school and farewell.	Seion Chapel, Esquel			A very hard-working and enthusiastic crew. It was a pleasure to have their company.
Left for the Valley on the night bus.				
Many visitors from Wales came to the Andes. It is impossible to name everyone.				
An asado in the company of the Rev. Eirian Wyn and friends (30) from Wales.				

A service of blessing at Seion Chapel Esquel. The service was led by the Rev. Eirian Wyn Lewis, who was assisted by the Rev. Gareth Morris and the Rev. Tom Dafis.	5th - 8th November November 5th Sunday morning 8th Sunday evening 8th	The place was full. Chapel was full.	60 12	A total of \$900 was presented to Ysgol y Cwm on behalf of the Cardigan - Trevelin Twinning Committee. Tea and light refreshments were provided after the service.
Eisteddfod Y Wladfa	November 11th			A good time was had by all and the competition was of a high standard. A large number of visitors in all the activities.
Gorsedd Ceremony and Tea at Capel Bethel Gaiman.				Fantastic singing. The main conductor was Mr Alun Guy. A blessing given by the Rev. Eirian Wyn Lewis.
Cymanfa Ganu in Trelew.				
A service at Bethel Gaiman chapel led by the Rev. Eirian Wyn Lewis, who was assisted by the Rev.				

Gareth Morris and the Rev. Tom Dafis.			
A Social Evening at the Esquel Centre to welcome Hazel Charles Evans, Morfudd Slaymaker and other friends from Wales.			

Discussion groups with the Archdruid of Wales. Esquel Centre.	November 10th	40	Former students from the Andes showed their appreciation to Hazel and Morfudd by referring to the welcome they received whilst studying in Wales. Margaritta, Isaias and Jessica Jones were very grateful to them. Hazel referred to her desire to present the learner of the year prize for the next five years. Further information is provided in the appendix. It was a good opportunity to exchange ideas and have a general conversation. Light refreshments. The evening took place in Trevelin.
	November 11th	The following	
An evening to launch 'The Freeman Family Travel Journals' translated into English by Mary Green.	November 22nd	activities	
	November 25th	have not	
	November 24th	taken place	
	November 25th.	yet.	
A service led by Lois Dafydd at Bethel Chapel Trevelin.	November 27th.		
Celebrating Trevelin's anniversary.			
Various activities including the walk up to Graig Goch.			
Opening ceremony, introductions/ recognition and appreciation.			

Each officer was introduced. Amongst those present was the Mayor of Cardigan, the Councillor John Adams Lewis.	November 29th.		It was wonderful to welcome so many visitors from Wales.
Meirion Jones gifted work by his father, the renowned artist Aneurin Jones, to be displayed in the Felin, Trevelin.	November 30th.		This year we are raising money for the Velindre Hospital.
Acto at Salon Central			A special day as I had the honour of carrying the Welsh Flag. It was wonderful to see an honourable crowd marching through the town.
A service at Seion Chapel, Esquel led by Hazel Charles Evans.			Local entertainment including Ysgol y Cwm pupils.
			A turkey dinner to follow the service.

	Welsh classes' concert at the Esquel Centre			
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				A fun night of diverse entertainment before Christmas.
December	Welsh classes' concert in Trevelin.	December 4th		
	Ysgol y Cwm concert.	December 12th		

I also had an interesting and highly enjoyable time undertaking the following.

- Publishing three editions of 'Llais yr Andes'
- Working closely with staff from Ysgol y Cwm, Trevelin and ensuring that the Welsh language is given prominence in the Curriculum through Classroom Planning and Organisation.
- Working closely with the Welsh teachers in Esquel and Trevelin.
- Recognising that the head, staff and pupils at School 24 Luis Jorge Fontana have shown considerable interest in the sessions held this year. A total of approximately 72 pupils. Great to announce that one of them will receive free Welsh lessons at the Centre next year. Thanks to Hazel Charles Evans for her kindness in presenting the Learner of the Year trophy to one pupil who has made exceptional progress from within all the schools as well as a recognised prize of \$50 for the next five years.
- Spending four days at Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman in July working with staff and observing lessons. Once again, it was lovely to visit Ysgol yr Hendre, Trelew and Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman during Eisteddfod Y Wladfa in November.
- Close collaboration with Nerys Edwards, Clwyd Theatr Cymru administrator and contact, during preparations and performances of 'Mimosa'.
- Coordinating the Urdd's Patagonia 2015 trip which was very successful as usual. It was a pleasure to work with all the local tutors to ensure that everything ran smoothly. I trust that the youngsters enjoyed themselves under the guidance of Mared Jones, Leah Dafydd and Siôn Lewis.
- Trying to encourage students and tutors from Esquel and Trevelin to maximise every possible opportunity, be that sitting an exam, writing a piece for 'Llais yr Andes', applying for a scholarship, competing in an Eisteddfod, sending articles to magazines and newspapers, passing exams and that Ryan Lloyd won the Tom Gravell scholarship to attend Llandoverly College in 2016.
- Uploading photos to Menter Patagonia's Facebook page and including each news item too. Sending news to Ceris Gruffydd, Wales-Argentina Society secretary, on a monthly basis. Sending a monthly article to 'Clebran', the Frenni area paper.

Learning Coordinator's Report

In producing this report, I must start by saying that this year has been an uncharacteristic one! Before the year began, there was some discussion about the celebrations to mark the first Welsh settlers arriving in Patagonia 150 years ago but I don't think anyone expected such a busy year of work and activity. It has been so wonderful to welcome so many people to these communities and I sincerely hope that all those who have visited us have felt the thrill of speaking their own language so far from home. The Centenary was so important to the revival of the language and culture in Y Wladfa and we sincerely hope that the 150-year celebrations have had the same impact on our visitors.

This has meant that there has been far more focus on certain aspects of the Learning Coordinator's work than the usual regimen such as observing classes, preparing material and offering training sessions. Some projects have received a great deal of attention this year in the

hope that they will pay dividends in the future. However, I have been in electronic contact with Luned Gonzalez and tutors in the Valley and Andes on a regular basis and with local tutors wherever practical. It is considered that one of the most important aspects of my work is to act as a liaison for workers from Wales and local tutors in Argentina too and it is important for officers from Wales to know that they have a mentor on the same continent. I understand that other projects sending people from Britain to other countries to work for a period of time encounter problems occasionally as there is no local liaison who understands the situation and that is one thing to be proud of in Y Wladfa.

Although it is not possible to list each and every visit, event, meeting and development here I will seek to elaborate on some aspects which have been important to the Scheme this year.

February 2015

- Meeting with some of the students who planned to sit the Foundation examination in June: as some candidates studied in Northern Argentina and were home for the summer holidays, we, along with their volunteer teacher Grisel Roberts, went about conducting sessions to revise the Wlpan course and prepare for the exam. Also present were young boys from Esquel and adults considering sitting an exam in the future.
- Classes were held via Skype with Foundation candidates living in Mendoza (northern Argentina) and Gaiman. As it was the summer holidays, these individuals had more time to study, so we maximised the time and held classes although we continued until the examinations in June. I would like to build on this in 2016 and extend our provision further through the use of technology.
- Working on Ysgol y Cwm's PEI: when the Scheme began in 1996 nobody considered offering bilingual education in Y Wladfa let alone in a small village in the Andes but, as a result of the Learning Welsh Scheme, self-confidence grew within the Welsh communities and the first bilingual school was established in Trelew and there is now another bilingual school in Gaiman. Ysgol y Cwm will be the third but, in order to achieve recognition from the Government, the school's thinking, aim and methodology must be shown and we, as the school's didactic committee, worked on these papers during the school holidays. (See the piece on Ysgol y Cwm).
 - Although not directly related to my post, but part of the 150-year celebrations, I went to the foot of Gorsedd y Cwmwl's peak, which is the mountain looking down on Trevelin, quite a challenging trek. There is now a piece of slate on top of the mountain which commemorates the initiative.
 - Welcomed Dafydd Wigley, one of the few visitors who was here for the Centenary and who has returned. His wife, Elinor Bennett, had held a fundraiser in Wales to buy a harp for Y Wladfa and as enough money had been raised to buy two, she, along with Gwenan Gibbard, brought one full-size and one practice harp for the Andes and the Valley.
 - Trevelin's Celtic Festival to celebrate St David's Day.

March 2015

- Travelled to the Valley to welcome Valley officers, Ann Marie Lewis and Tito and the children. Spent time with them looking at the work and timescales. Attended events at the start of the Valley term and class committee.
- Welcomed the volunteer Frank Holloway. Frank had visited Y Wladfa on holiday and, as a retired teacher, he felt that one day he could contribute to the work, so he came with special presentations on the history of Wales and shared these with the Welsh society but also with local schools, which was a very interesting experience for both parties. He spent time in the Andes and the Valley.
- Teaching two classes in Esquel, namely Advanced and Mastering, up to now. The Scheme's success has meant that confident tutors are teaching the locals and preparing them for examinations, but there is a lack of confidence in terms of higher levels so, due to the interest shown by a crew in Esquel and lack of hours on the part of Eluned Jones, I agreed to teach two groups, especially as both were considering sitting the Advanced examination in 2016.

April 2015

- Visit by the Joio crew to film for a theatrical event {150} and the film *Galesa* – assisted with arrangements with the locals and local organisations.
- Took part in a walk which was supposed to go from Porth Madryn to Rawson following the footsteps of the first Welsh settlers but, due to bad weather, the journey had to be curtailed only walking along some parts and not camping out on the Prairie.
- Trevelin Eisteddfod – leading the Saturday afternoon session and available for simultaneous translation.

May 2015

- Welcomed Elin Fflur to Y Wladfa and helped with arrangements in the Andes.
- Led weekly preparation sessions for the Entry and Foundation examinations for pupils in the Andes.

June 2015

- Entry level and Intermediate level examinations
- Spoke at the Gaiman Book Fair.
- Advanced level and Foundation level examinations. As the examinations were split between the Andes and the Valley, due to the location of the majority of the candidates, I spent quite a bit of time travelling in June!
- Welcomed Isabel Thomas and Steffan Bryn to the Andes, both having won a Santander scholarship offered by the School of Welsh, Cardiff University, to come to Y Wladfa to volunteer. Planned a programme for them. Mentored them during their stay.

July 2015

- Welcomed the BBC who came to film for news programming marking the 150-year anniversary.
- Gŵyl y Glaniad (The Landing Celebration). Travelled to Porth Madryn to take part in the celebrations.
- Welcomed Carwyn Jones to the Andes.
- Welcomed Gareth Kiff to the Andes in his capacity as Academic Director and Chair of the Welsh Language Scheme in Patagonia.
- Welcomed Aled Eirug (Chair of British Council Wales), Mary Godward (British Council in Argentina) and Suzanne Hay (BBC Orchestra). Spent time with Suzanne working on a plan for Catrin Finch's visit to the Andes.

August 2015

- Welcomed the *Mimosa* musical crew which was aimed at bringing together young people and Wales to share the history of the Mimosa. Travelled with them and lent a hand where needed.
- Welcomed Suzanne Condon from Cardiff University as a volunteer.

September 2015

- Welcomed Dafydd Tudur and Berian Ellis from the Casgliad y Werin (The People's Collection) project.
- Spoke about the Welsh language and its history and provided a taster session for teachers and prospective teachers in the FAAPI's annual conference. This year's conference was held in Cordoba and was an opportunity to network and show the existence of the Learning Welsh Scheme. Ana Chiabrandu also took part in the sessions as she had won a scholarship to attend the conference during the 150-year celebratory year.

October 2015

- Welcomed the Lighthouse Theatre crew to the Andes.
- Planned a visit by Catrin Finch alongside the British Council in Argentina and the BBC Wales Orchestra, welcoming her to the area. Provided simultaneous translation in the workshops and concerts. Coordinated her work programme whilst she was here.
- Took part in the string workshops in the Valley offered by the BBC orchestra and provided simultaneous translation where needed.
- Welcomed the Urdd crew on their annual visit.

November 2015

- Welcomed Rosemary Butler, National Assembly for Wales' Presiding Officer, to the Andes on a short visit.
- Eisteddfod Y Wladfa – competed, attended and supported.
- Welcomed Siân Thomas to the Andes as a volunteer.
- Welcomed Steffan Phillips to the Andes as a volunteer.
- Trevelin's Anniversary Celebrations.
- End-of-term events in the Valley and Andes.

As well as the special items listed above, I have also been working with the following as part of my routine duties during the school year in Argentina:

- Attending local committees from the centres, including those in the Valley where possible.
- Leading groups involved with language learning - planning, creating resources etc.
- Providing learning support as and when required.
- Undertaking administrative work involving scholarships, volunteering, examinations etc. This year, two candidates sat the Advanced level examination which meant providing a considerable sum of support in preparing them for the folio and recording work. I did this during visits to the Valley and online.
- Acting as Chair of Ysgol y Cwm's Committee and Deputy Chair of Trevelin's Welsh Society.
- Arranging work as Language Coordinator for the nursery schools.
- Attending every Welsh language event and Eisteddfod where possible.
- Creating and maintaining a positive working relationship with local tutors and those attached to the Project in the Chubut Region.

Case Studies

Ysgol Gymraeg yr Andes Esquel

My name is Marina. I have worked at Ysgol Gymraeg yr Andes, Esquel for around ten years. I am a Nursery teacher.

This year I am working with Eluned Jones, the teacher from Wales. This is a great opportunity for both of us as we are able to share new ideas and experiences when planning for lessons together.

We teach the children twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6-8pm.

The children enjoy various activities - singing, learning colours, numbers, shapes and painting. But I think they most enjoy looking at books.

In the second group, the children enjoy painting, writing, playing cards and the girls here have also started to read in Welsh! Fantastic!

Welsh lessons are currently held in the Spanish Nursery School "Mundo Disparatado", as construction is taking place on Ysgol Gymraeg yr Andes Esquel. I look forward to seeing the new

building. I thoroughly enjoy working in the Spanish Nursery School as well as Victoria attended the school.

Jam Llaeth

Every Monday night at 22.00 on Radio Pocas Nueces (106.5fm)

Jam Llaeth is a bilingual show which features news, interviews, stories, an opportunity to learn some Welsh and Spanish, and Welsh music. And of course a lot of Welsh music. Some of the teenagers studying Welsh also contribute on a weekly basis.

We are very excited that the programme has restarted. Jam Llaeth began in 1999 with Sioned Hughes, the teacher who was here from Wales. The last programme was broadcast in 2004.

More information is available on the Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/jamllaeth

and the programme is uploaded to Soundcloud www.soundcloud.com/jamllaeth every week for everyone to hear.

Until next Monday night,

Gŵyl y Glaniad (The Landing Festival) 2015 – Clare Vaughan

Despite attending several celebrations in Porth Madryn since coming to Patagonia, this year was a significant one with a number of events taking place.

The Government's official ceremony

There had been much discussion prior to the event as the Argentinian President and First Minister of Wales would be in attendance in an election year in the country. It was important to go and support the Welsh but it was a surreal experience being surrounded by government supporters with us, at the centre, with a cultural interest but the 'Corazon Pionero' or 'Calon Arloesol' show was worth seeing with local artists alongside actors from Buenos Aires and it was mesmerising.

Gala Concert in Trelew

The city's Spanish theatre was jam-packed to hear local artists and El Sur-co Duo from Trevelin recounting Y Wladfa's history in a very emotional way with the wonderful finale involving the children who are the future of the language and culture singing their hearts out.

28 July 2015

Waking up early to see the ceremony by the statue of the Welsh women and somehow being invited to take part by pushing one of the barrels to the statue of the Indian by the caves! Then seeing crowds of people waiting to greet those representing the first settlers who came ashore in a rowing boat. Then the meeting between both cultures and an exchange between the Indians and the Welsh. Then political speeches by Martin Buzzi, Head of the Region and Carwyn Jones, First Minister. Then a Cymanfa Ganu in a school sport hall and I have to admit that it was very difficult to feel involved in such a large space.

Rushing to Moriah Chapel to commemorate Lewis Jones, one of the city's founders which now bears his name, before moving onto Gaiman where a wonderful tea had been prepared in several of the chapels for the thirsty.

A grand concert to end the day with the Gaiman gymnasium full to the brim with us having to stand on the balcony in order to see the local artists.

Then travelling home by bus overnight in order to be ready to welcome Carwyn Jones to Trevelin as he had decided to accept Buzzi's offer to use his plane to travel over and visit the Andes at least.

29 July 2015 By 14.00 there were representatives from Welsh and Welsh language societies and organisations in the Mill Museum in Trevelin ready to greet the First Minister and it was a pleasant enough hour although it was disappointing that he did not have time to visit the newly built Ysgol y Cwm.

31 July 2015

Concert in Trevelin, dinner in Esquel and plenty of rushing to and fro!

1 August...and the celebrations continue!

A wonderful evening took place at the Esquel gymnasium which showcased the town and area's talents at their best with emotive dancing, Welsh and Spanish singing, old and young and an event which gave a fitting tribute to the first settlers.

'Mimosa' Tour by Clwyd Theatr Cymru

Despite a number of visits this year marking 150 years I believe that this tour stands out in particular due to the collaboration between youngsters from Wales and those fortunate individuals from Y Wladfa, Esquel, to recount the history of both countries. The show was completely professional thanks to the expert hand of Tim Baker and it was an emotional experience for all involved: I cried seeing Mike Winter and Ryan Lloyd alongside their peers acting and singing on stage and recounting the history in such a vivid way.

If we wish to see Y Wladfa celebrate its 200-year anniversary we need more projects which bring young people from both countries together in terms of culture and friendship to create links which will continue in the future.

'Mimosa' Tour Band by Clwyd Theatre Cymru

Llais yr Andes article by Dylan Williams (translation)

It is very difficult to put into words one of the best experiences of my life as an actor and indeed on a personal level. It's difficult to believe that only a few weeks ago I was on the other side of the world with a crew from Wales and two young lads from Esquel performing in 'Mimosa' in a place called Patagonia.

Back in February of this year I was honoured to be invited to an audition with the director, Tim Baker, Clwyd Theatr Cymru, for a new project called 'Mimosa'. I was already excited to be able to catch up with Tim as he was a director who had given me many opportunities in the past and, as a director and friend, had shown faith in me as an actor. We had worked together on a number of productions in the past for this special theatre company in Mold.

I got even more excited when Tim shared his vision for this new project. He talked about his magical trip to Patagonia four years previously and the inspiration for the piece, namely a picture of Kate Jones' grave, one of the first cohorts. He found her name on the list of travellers to sail aboard the Mimosa, as well as her husband William Jones 'Y Bedol' and their two young daughters, Mary Ann and Jane. It then became apparent that years of further research had been undertaken to piece together Kate and William's story, along with many other travellers, including Rachel and Aaron Jenkins, in order to recreate the world and experiences of the first cohort of settlers, starting with their decision to leave Wales for good and embark on an extraordinary journey from the Liverpool docks on a small clipper ship in 1865 to South America and a place called Patagonia.

At the end of April, I started rehearsing at Theatr Clwyd having been chosen to take part in this project, which was an enormous privilege. Joining me in rehearsals were my fellow actors, Hanna Jarman, Tom Blumberg and Bethany Gwyn. Also joining us and Tim was Emyr John, the assistant director, and I must thank him wholeheartedly for his work with Tim and the cast throughout rehearsals. It was also great to be working with the exceptional composer, Dyfan Jones, once again. His spell-binding songs, with lyrics by Tudur Dylan Jones, would once again prove to be the lifeblood of this drama and would have a resounding impact on Tim Baker's complex script.

Following an extremely busy rehearsal period, preparing the drama in both Welsh and English in the short space of three and a half weeks, we started to tour Wales, and with each performance it became very clear, from the warm reception across Wales, that we were part of a very special project. Then we returned to Mold to perform the show for four weeks, with evening performances and morning and matinee performances for hundreds of schoolchildren from across north Wales.

Then we went to Glan-llyn to meet 16 youngsters from Wales and two young lads from Esquel, Mike Winter and Ryan Lloyd. Clwyd Theatr Cymru 'Theatre for Young People' had formed a partnership with the Urdd for the next part of the project. This partnership would become extremely worthwhile, and following this project, a partnership which has secured its status as a crucial network, both culturally and nationally, for the future of the Welsh language and our young people across the world. Therefore, we are deeply grateful to Clwyd Theatr Cymru and the Urdd for this vision, and to Iestyn and Bethan, the Urdd's care officers, for all their work, spirit and humour along the way. And we are deeply grateful to all the young people for their sheer commitment, resolve and sense of enjoyment throughout the project.

Thinking about the project, it was interesting and important to remember that we were in Bala rehearsing. Bala was the place William and Kate Jones left for good to follow their dream of a better life in Patagonia. This area is also steeped in Welsh history as we are also only a stone's throw away from the deep waters as we remember Tryweryn. So, in the space of only two weeks, we restarted rehearsals with the young people, and as each day went by watched and noticed how this amazing story gripped them just as it had gripped us as a professional cast and audiences across Wales already.

Our first two performances as a cast took place at the National Eisteddfod in Meifod, with the Theatre full to the brim, and everyone on their feet and in tears. The same reaction was experienced in the Chapter, Cardiff, with everyone now appreciating the significance of this drama.

Then, at long last, on Sunday 9th August we embarked on the next important chapter in the history of this project, and left for South America (but not by boat) flying to Buenos Aires and then going on to Patagonia! We arrived in Trelew first, then Porth Madryn and Gaiman. There were four shows in these areas and nobody expected the reaction we got. The welcome we experienced was absolutely amazing and we are deeply grateful to the whole community. Everyone was on their feet and in tears and there was a feeling that we had come home with the tale. Of course it was important to recount this story to everyone, but in their heart of hearts everyone knew that the response experienced in these towns in Patagonia was different somehow. The same response was shared by the Welsh, Argentinian Welsh and non-Welsh speakers along with descendents of that first cohort as everyone saw the images in the narrative and felt the wave of emotion presented on stage. We were recounting the history of the Welsh in Patagonia to the Welsh in Patagonia, and by doing so, as Tim Baker, our director, said 'having the privilege of becoming part of that story'. And as a cast we understood the significance of this story more and more every day as we were able to visit the landing site in Porth Madryn, and stand on the beach singing our anthem to Patagonia. See the graves of many descendants in Gaiman, including the grave of Kate Jones of course, who inspired the story and was the muse of our director Tim Baker.

Crossing the prairie then for our final two shows in Esquel and Trevelin, with the same warm and special welcome, and the response just as powerful and emotional, with tears flowing from all

corners on the final night when the descendents of the first cohort were asked to stand at the end of the show. They and everyone else were given a round of applause, which I thought would never stop, before everyone joined together to sing Hen Wlad fy Nhadau. We are so grateful to the communities of Esquel and Trevelin.

Not only was it the end of the road in Esquel and Trevelin but we were also returning two of their sons. We are extremely grateful to the families of Mike Winter and Ryan Lloyd for their warm welcome and their huge support towards the project whilst in Esquel and Trevelin. We are also thankful to both families for the privilege of meeting and working with their sons. They are two kind, gracious, mature and able young men. Two young men who we hope will be friends for life. Thank you Mike and Ryan!

So what next? Well, with thanks to the Welsh community in Trelew, Porth Madryn, Gaiman, Esquel and Trefelin, there is talk of returning there to recount more of their history. I really do hope that happens. The history and message conveyed by this drama struck a chord with each and every one of us and, as we headed home, we all hoped that we had sparked some kind of revival. This story began 150 years ago, when the first settlers left their homes to create a new Wales far far away. This initial cohort of approximately 150 people endured a horrendous journey lasting 60 days aboard the small clipper ship, the Mimosa. Upon arrival and finding nothing but dust and desert they chose to continue and not turn back, not give up. They irrigated the land, built schools, chapels, communities which could live, pray and love in their own language, the Welsh language, in a place called Patagonia.

And this is the whole purpose of the initiative by Clwyd Theatr Cymru and the Urdd in my opinion. Holding up a mirror through art to the Welsh in Wales and the Welsh in Patagonia so that we can continue on with the journey and appreciate the importance of securing the future of the language. A network has now been established between Clwyd Theatr Cymru and the Urdd with the entire Welsh society in Patagonia, and it is through this relationship and network that the work may continue. The initiative shown by the first settlers and the generations that followed must be celebrated every day, and those of us here now must continue with that. As written by Tim Baker: "The initiative must continue, we must succeed, we cannot fail!"

I would like to end by also thanking the incredible team at Clwyd Theatr Cymru for their work bringing this show to life. Thanks to Alex Robertson for his stage design and to the design and manufacturing department for their work. A special thanks also to the costume department at Clwyd Theatr Cymru. Thanks to the technical team at the Theatre who accompanied us on the journey, Cassey driver and Tom Biglin. And a huge thanks to the coordinator of the 'Theatre for Young People' department, Nerys Edwards, for her unrelenting work.

I would also like to personally thank my fellow actors, Hanna Jarman, Tom Blumberg and Bethany Gwyn, for an incredible and emotional five months, and to all the youngsters for working with us.

I would like to end with the words of Tim Baker which resonated with each and every one of us as cast members and also audience members on this incredible journey, in Mold, Anglesey, Pontypridd, Merthyr, Meifod, Mwldan, Felinfach, Liverpool, Builth Wells. From Caernarfon to Gaiman, Trelew to Trevelin, Porth Madryn to Esquel.

“Dyfodol, Rhyddid, Gobaith, Ffydd!” (Future, Liberty, Hope, Faith)

Until next time Patagonia.

Thank you.

Dylan Williams ‘Mimosa 2015’.

I am given a warm welcome on a weekly basis at School 24 Luis Jorge Fontana, Esquel. The head, Sandra Teresa Simeoni, is very supportive. Diana Mariel Jenkins teaches Welsh in the school. It's great to see the pupils showing such enthusiasm.

You will see different pictures of groups who have already had lessons this year. There is also a picture of Professor Robert Owen Jones who came to visit some years ago. It's lovely to see an example of the work of Catalina Lecuona Nardo.

It was a pleasure to be part of the school's celebrations marking the Landing Festival and hearing different presentations and very polished items. Thanks to Cristine Jones for her speech which gave the pupils a better sense of what happened when the first settlers arrived. A very special morning.

Eluned Jones

Harps for Y Wladfa

At the end of last summer, it was wonderful to receive the news from Wales that Elinor Wigley was fundraising to buy harps for Y Wladfa. I have been giving harp lessons in Ysgol Gerdd y Gaiman (Gaiman Music School) for three years now and a great deal of interest has been ignited in Wales' national instrument with a number of pupils choosing to learn to play the harp. Coinciding with St David's Day celebrations in Y Wladfa, it was wonderful to welcome both Elinor and Gwenan Gibbard to conduct concerts and hand over two harps to Cwm Hyfryd residents. In July, I transported a harp purchased via funds from the same pot to be used in Ysgol Gerdd y Gaiman and we understand that another two harps are on their way. Ysgol Gerdd y Gaiman's new harp was used in the Landing Festival concert in Trelew, where Helen Mair Green performed three lullabies very skilfully to a hall full of people, including the First Minister, Carwyn Jones. So, we are very very grateful to Elinor for showing an interest in us here in Y Wladfa and for her support and all those who donated money to ensure that one aspect of Welsh life continues in Patagonia.

Esyllt Nest Roberts

Cwm Hyfryd Dancers

I started with the dancing group in 2008. The children were little. We started by taking part in eisteddfodau and concerts but we now enjoy other types of venues. We were very busy this year. In March, the Celtic Encuentro, and then the Easter fair in Trevelin. In April we danced in School 18, a Concert and Trevelin Eisteddfod too. We are proud of our success and being chosen as part of Culturales Evita in Esquel to proceed to the next round in Rawson at the end of September. The small children and adults danced at the Winter fair in Trevelin and had a great deal of fun. It is the 150th Anniversary so it was lovely to dance in the Acto on 28th July. Amongst many other activities, such as Festival 150 and the celebratory concert, it was wonderful to dance and clog dance with the 'Mimosa' cast during the social evening in Esquel. We recently enjoyed dancing at the 'Puerta del Sol' School Eisteddfod. We have danced in a wedding. We have welcomed visitors from Wales, Leni Hatcher who taught some clogdancing and Suzanne Condon who came to train us in our dancing classes. I arranged a Twmpath with Steffan Bryn and Isabel, the Santander students from Cardiff University. Many thanks to them. Remember that dancing is fun and you are welcome to join us on a Tuesday night at 8 o' clock in the town hall with the adults and every Friday afternoon in Ysgol y Felin for children aged 5 and over.

Jessica Jones

2014 Recommendations : A Progress Report

1) Support efforts to establish and sustain bilingual primary education in Gaiman and Trevelin.

The Scheme has certainly been central to efforts in this crucial area.

2) Build on the significant progress achieved in 2014 and all the interest ignited by the 2015 celebrations in order to increase numbers at all levels. The marketing approaches used this year should continue.

Once again a number of learners progressed and during a busy year.

3) Work with the local and federal government in order to access more Spanish medium schools.

Progress has been seen in the Andes mainly due to the revival of second language lessons in School 24 Esquel. This work could definitely be developed in the future but not at the expense of bilingual schools.

4) Continue to offer bitesize courses which are open to the public and in workplaces in order to create and develop new audiences.

These courses were very successful once again and in the section on Welsh for Adults it is shown that they led to a significant number of learners at Entry level once again.

5) Reinforce and increase numbers on Welsh for Adults courses at Foundation and especially Intermediate level.

This has happened - see page 7

6) Help to promote and maintain Connecting Classrooms partnerships and seek to establish a new partnership between the Andes and a school in Wales. The lack of funding available to send teachers to observe in Wales is a blow to the scheme. However, these partnerships can be used in order to achieve this aim.

A Connecting Classrooms partnership was created between Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman and Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth.

7) Historically, due to the generosity of the Argentine Welsh Society and a charitable fund it has been possible for many decades to send Welsh learners to Wales each year to attend a Cardiff University Welsh for Adults Centre Summer Course, as well as sending teachers over to observe - see point 6 above.

The importance of this cannot be overemphasised. Almost 60 people have attended the Summer Course over the last decade and approximately 80% of native Welsh teachers have learnt Welsh or improved their Welsh on these courses. However, due to the economic climate, this source of funding is no longer available to us. Losing a constant flow of confident Welsh speakers returning to Y Wladfa each year would be a huge blow to the future of the Welsh language here. As a result, and in the face of a lack of additional funding in the foreseeable future, the local committees will need to consider local fundraising initiatives, as was arranged at the start of the Scheme, in order to contribute to securing this important tradition.

From 2016 onwards, due to exceptional work by members of the Society, it is hoped that scholarships may be offered to two or three students to study in Cardiff. It should also be noted that one learner won a scholarship offered by Aberystwyth University to attend a Welsh course in July 2015.

2015 Recommendations

- 1) Children. Support crucial primary developments in the Valley and the Andes. During 2016 there will be a primary expert in the Valley to assist Ysgol Gymraeg y Gaiman.
- 2) Funding. The recommendations found in the 2013 annual report referred to the funding crisis faced by the Scheme. This situation is ongoing. For 10 years or more, the Scheme has been in receipt of the same levels of funding and in a country where inflation is around 30%. It is a miracle that numbers continue to rise, with that in mind, but this rise will not continue unless more funding is available in order to provide a living wage for officers from Wales to go over there and to compensate all the local tutors reasonably. Officers cannot currently serve communities such as Madryn and Comodoro Rivadavia sufficiently due to all the activities taking place in the Valley. The Scheme could grow and develop in these areas but another office will be required. For a relatively small cost, this could make a big difference to the future of the Welsh language in Y Wladfa.
- 3) Welsh for Adults. Since targeting this important area at a strategic level numbers have risen significantly. All the celebrations in 2015 have attracted a new audience and have reminded old audiences of their roots. As a result of this and the Scheme's strategic efforts, there are more adult learners this year than ever before and, for the first time, learners sat WJEC examinations at all levels. However, we must not rest on our laurels. Steps must be taken to ensure that learners move from one level to the next, especially in 2016 between Pre-entry and Entry (Wlpan 1) and from Intermediate to Advanced.
- 4) Observations and Learning Scholarships. In 2016 one teacher will observe in primary schools in Wales and this work needs to continue. Funding must also be sought to send learners on intensive courses in Wales.
- 5) Partnerships. Educational expertise and resources are required within the primary sector in order to ensure the success of the new schools. This can only be achieved by creating strategic partnerships.