

STORYSAVERS

A Grundtvig Lifelong Learning Partnership

**MEETING 7
LLANDOVERY,
WALES.**

**19TH -21ST
MAY
2014**



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



NOTES

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.co.uk



Grundtvig. Practical learning for adults

Launched in 2000, Grundtvig aims to provide adults with more ways to improve their knowledge and skills, facilitate their personal development and boost their employment prospects. It also helps to tackle problems associated with Europe's ageing population.

It covers not only teachers, trainers, staff and organisations working in the sector, but also learners in adult education. These include relevant associations, counselling organisations, information services, policy-making bodies and others such as NGOs, enterprises, voluntary groups and research centres.

The programme funds a range of activities, including particularly those supporting adult learning staff to travel abroad for learning experiences, through exchanges and various other professional experiences. Other larger scale initiatives involve, for instance, networking and partnerships between organisations in different countries.

The specific aims of the Grundtvig programme are to:

- increase the number of people in adult education to 25 000 by 2013, and improve the quality of their experience, whether at home or abroad
- improve conditions for mobility so that at least 7000 people per year by 2013 can benefit from adult education abroad
- improve the quality and amount of co-operation between adult education organisations
- develop innovative adult education and management practices, and encourage widespread implementation
- ensure that people on the margins of society have access to adult education, especially older people and those who left education without basic qualifications
- support innovative ICT-based educational content, services and practices

A project to use the medium of story-telling to explore/record and exchange/compare important local stories across Europe.

By doing this we hope to explore and discover stories that are common to us all. We hope to share issues, problems, difficulties, perspectives, wisdom, humour and triumphs in a way that helps to build lasting understanding between all of the individual contributors and partnership members.

Each partner will identify a local need or story and a group of story-recorders that will engage in the detailed work. Activities will include development of StorySavers on Social-Network sites and setting up of physical StorySavers groups in each partner's region.

As part of our regular learning partnership meetings we will organise training in story-gathering techniques and regional StorySavers exhibitions which will bring in the public and many other organisations into the region, especially those working with older people and families.

At the completion of the project we will record and disseminate the stories and memories of our friends and contributors in our various areas and industries before they disappear for ever. We then hope to share those stories in a lasting way using a wide variety of methods and media.

The educational approach will be non-formal and inclusive, using the existing skills and talents of the participants as well as developing new skills. We will encourage the whole community to engage in the project and hope to use their collective knowledge as an important project resource.

The project provides, in each partner's context, flexibility to develop appropriate action and allow participants with a range of identified needs, to develop managerial capacity both of the project and of their own personal needs and requirements.



The Valley of The River Towy - Afon Tywi

Situated in South West Wales, the valley of the River Towy is one of the most beautiful in Britain. This is the valley of Merlin, of Saints and miracles, holy wells, a royal scandal, fairies and outlaws. No other valley can boast the range of wildlife, historical sites, world class gardens and beaches offered by the Towy and its tributaries. Only 75 miles in length, but it is the longest river flowing wholly within Wales. The river rises in the Cambrian Mountains of Mid Wales and with its tributaries flows into Llyn Brianne. From the wilds of Mid Wales the Towy flows by the towns of Llandovery, Llandeilo and Carmarthen and then past Llansteffan into Carmarthen Bay and as it enters the sea, is joined by the Rivers Gwendraeth and Taf. The village of Laugharne, with its links to Dylan Thomas, lies on the estuary of the Taf, while Kidwelly Castle is on the banks of the Gwendraeth.

The valley was inhabited long before the Romans arrived in Britain. There are numerous standing stones and burial mounds while the two Iron Age hill forts at Garn Goch, overlooking the valley near Bethlehem, are the largest in Wales. After the invasion the Romans built a road to the sea along the valley and established garrisons at Llandovery, Llandeilo, Carmarthen and at Pumsaint on the River Cothi, to protect the gold mine at Dolaucothi. After the Romans left the area was important in the development of Celtic Christianity and many of the towns take their names from churches dedicated to local saints. (Llan is Welsh for church). It was also a time of myths and legends and there are numerous references to Merlin and the Knights of King Arthur in the area (the name



Carmarthen, according to the 12th century historian Geoffrey of Monmouth, is derived from the Welsh Caerfyrddin, meaning Merlin's Castle) as well as the Lady of the Lake and the physicians of Myddfai and the Welsh Robin Hood, Twm Sion Catti.

The Towy Valley from Dinefwr Castle

Myddfai.

A description from the Dyfed Archaeology Trust.

www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

This *character area* is centred on the village of Myddfai which lies in the open bowl-like valley of the Afon Brân. The valley floor lies at approximately 100 m to 130 m, the valley sides rise to over 200 m. Essentially this is an area of dispersed farms and small fields.

The whole landscape is enclosed into small- and medium-sized fields that tend towards the regular rather than the irregular. Boundaries are universally of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in good condition, but with some dereliction, particularly at higher levels. Some hedges have distinctive hedgerow trees. Wire fences supplement most hedges. Farmland is almost entirely improved pasture. Small stands of deciduous woodland lie on some of the steeper valley sides, but these are few compared with the highly wooded appearance of neighbouring areas.

The small nucleated village of Myddfai is centred on the Medieval church of St Michael. Several terraces of late 18th- and early 19th-century two-storey, stone-built (mostly rendered) cottages cluster around the church, with a little later 19th- and 20th-century residential development on the fringes of the village. Dispersed farms are the main settlement type of the area. Farmhouses are mostly 19th century in date, stone-built, two-storey, three-bays and generally in the vernacular tradition. Most farms have 19th century stone-built farm buildings as well as modern agricultural structures. The older buildings tend to be of one or two ranges, which are rarely arranged formally around a yard.

The recorded archaeology is from many periods and comprises a Bronze Age hoard, standing stone and ? round barrow, a lost ECM site from the early Medieval period, the church, a post-Conquest moated site, and a lead mine and quarry from the Post-Medieval period. In addition are an unknown earthwork and cropmark site. There are some distinctive buildings but few are listed.

The landmark Medieval church, without a tower, is Grade B listed. A K6 telephone box in centre of the village is Grade II listed. There are a number of gentry houses including Llwynmeredydd, Cwm Ydw and Gorllwyn, rebuilt in the 18th- and 19th-century. The area also contains four chapels, a school, a public houses, post office and bridge. Myddfai is not an easy character area to define as neighbouring areas possess similar historic landscape components. However, it does have a more regular field pattern than its neighbours, is less wooded, and has a small nucleated village at its core.



Image courtesy of Google Earth.



Carreg Cennen

Notes



Sunday

Travel Day

Monday

Morning

Business

Welcome *Ric and Carroll*

E-Book *Maryna*

Conclusion *Ric, Sandy*

Afternoon

Culture

Visit to The National Botanic Garden for Wales.

Lunch 13.00

Talk 14.00

(Partners to pay £6.50 + lunch)

Evening

Dinner at the Sexton's Arms

Llansadwrn

(Partners to pay)

Tuesday

Morning

Business

Final Report

Afternoon

Culture

Visit to Llandeilo

Lunch at the Angel Inn

Visit to Crafts Alive

(Partners to pay)

Evening

Dinner at the Dolacothi Arms

Pumpsaint

(Partners to pay)

Notes

Wednesday

Morning

Visit to Myddfai Trading & Myddfai Village Hall

Coffee (*Partners to pay*)

Lunch at Myddfai

(*Partners to pay*)

Afternoon

Business

Final Report

'High Tea'

Penygawse, Llandovery

Any Other Business and Certificates

(*Partners to pay, £5.00 per head*)

Evening

Free

Thursday

Travel Day



MEETING 7, LLANDOVERY, WALES



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Loose Tea Sample Teas

is a social enterprise. We were incorporated in 2010. Our mission is to provide employment and volunteering opportunities within the local community. Our profits are to be used for rural regeneration within the surrounding area. We work closely with the Coastal Project and Colleg Elydir in nearby Rhandirmwyn to provide work experience for adults with learning difficulties.

Volunteers from Colleg Elydir and their carers.

Our innovative, environmentally friendly and original products successfully delivered by a highly professional, motivated team in line with our social enterprise values. We are building on the launch of our cosmetics range to meet the growing demands of our ethical & environmentally conscious customers.

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Myddfai Tinned Herbal Teas

Hand blended, organic herbs sourced in Wales. Each with it's own property as described by the famous Physicians of Myddfai

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	★★★★★	
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A Welsh summer's day in Myddfai !

Digital Dissemination

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