



Annual Report 2010-2011



Content	Page
Chairman's Foreword	3
Executive Summary	3
Menter Iaith Maelor's Mission Statement	4
Chapter 1 – Organisations and Partners	4
Chapter 2 – Young Parents	6
Chapter 3 – Children	6
Chapter 4 – Language Confidence	7
Chapter 5 – Young People	7
Chapter 6 – Private Sector	8
Chapter 7 – Marketing and Publicity	8
Chapter 8 – Staffing, Management Structure and Membership	9
Chapter 9 – Implementation, Monitoring and Reviewing	10
Chapter 10 – Financial Statement	12

Chairman's Foreword

It is very positive to see that the progress has continued following last year's successes and that we have managed to keep the same staffing structures, this to ensure that we are able to meet our objectives in respect of promoting and developing the Welsh language in the county. The success of the working partnership between us and Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint in addition to the CIW Youth Project with the Urdd and Wrexham County Borough Council, has reinforced our priorities in respect of working in partnership in the most efficient manner.

I am very pleased to announce that the Welsh Language Board has acknowledged all of the development work and progress with the notable increase in the amount of activities the Menter has delivered, with an increase in the grant for 2011 -12. This means that we are better placed to deliver a more comprehensive service to the communities in Wrexham ac to support our main partners in the work of promoting and developing the Welsh Language.

Thank you to all the Board Members for their work and for giving their time and resources so readily , thank you to all our partners for their work, their vision and commitment.

Trefor Jones-Morris

Executive Summary

Menter Iaith Maelor was founded in 1999 by local volunteers in order to fulfill the aspirations of local people to establish a community organisation that would promote the Welsh language in the area and to ensure that the language reached its potential.

The Menter has been registered as company limited by guarantee since 1st August 2006 and does not operate to generate profit. The Menter has an experienced Board of Directors who have been selected from the wider membership and who have extensive expertise from the business, voluntary, education and public administration sectors.

We welcome anyone who agrees with the aims and objectives of the Menter to become a member. Its main function is to develop and expand the use of Welsh language in the communities of Wrexham County. The Welsh Language Board is the main funder and the organisation has also managed to attract funding annually from Wrexham County Council towards staffing costs. Additional funding was also secured from the Rural Development Programme which is partly funded by the European Union and Welsh Assembly Government in order to implement the Welsh Language Research and Development project for the period 2008-11. The office is located in AVOW – the Voluntary Council offices in Wrexham town

center. The Menter's work is assessed annually by the Welsh Language Board in accordance with specific targets agreed between Menter Iaith Maelor's Board of Directors and the Welsh Language Board. The targets are in line with the priorities outlined in the Menter's Corporate Plan for the period 2010-13, following consultation with members, stakeholders and partners in 2009.

Menter Iaith Maelor's Mission Statement

The work of the Menter is to expand, promote and facilitate the use of Welsh in Wrexham County.

The Menter will achieve this by:

- Organising activities that will provide an opportunity for all ages to use Welsh in a social setting
- Bringing organisations together to raise the profile of Welsh language
- Encourage public bodies and businesses to use the Welsh language, and encourage Welsh speakers and learners to use the services
- Act as an information center for Welsh medium activities in the Wrexham area.

This document is a report on the work of the Menter and covers the period between April 2010 March 2011.

Chapter 1: Organisations and Partners

The Menter continues to encourage a relationship and develop contacts with a number of partners in the public and voluntary sector, in order to secure more services through the medium of Welsh.

The **County Language01 Forum** which consists of our language partners throughout the county meets every quarter, with the Menter co-ordinating and chairing the meeting. The partners have worked together successfully and effectively to share good practice and try to increase the use of the Welsh language by the public and voluntary sector.

The number of members in the Forum has increased by merging with Flintshire County Forum with the following organisation now members-

- Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, TWF, Flintshire County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council, Menter a Busnes, Welsh Language Board, Young Farmers' Club, Merched y Wawr, Welsh Unlimited, Bangor University, Deeside College, Welsh For Adults Centre, Cadwyn Clwyd, Estyn Llaw, Rhieni Dros

Addysg Gymraeg ,Glyndŵr University, Yale College, Coleg Harlech, Wrexham Training College, Clybiau Gwawr.

The Menter secured funding from the Welsh Language Board and Wrexham Borough County Council to employ a Youth Officer in partnership with the Urdd and the County Council. The officer is responsible for developing and increasing Welsh language provision for the young people of the county.

The Menter received £66,000 of funding to implement the Rural Development Plan to develop the Welsh language in rural areas of Wrexham between 2008-2011, which is part funded by The European Union and The Welsh Assembly. The funding has meant that the organisation has been able to employ a Welsh Language Development and Research Project Officer who has organised a series of events and activities in order to raise awareness of the Welsh language and the rich culture of the county. An important aspect of the project was to conduct a research of the language profile in order to note the service and Welsh organisation that operate in rural area of the county.

Following a period of consultations with the Menter's partners and representatives of the community the Menter now operate a Corporate plan and an Action Plan which states the Menter's strategic objectives for the period of 2010-13

The Menter acknowledges the importance of supporting community groups which operate voluntarily to promote the language and culture of Wrexham.

We have succeeded in developing a new relationship with bodies and various organisations such as Family Information Services, Language and Play and Wrexham's Local Voluntary Council which aims to increase the use of the Welsh language. We will continue to build on this work in the future.

We aim to support organisations and establishments by offering information of the Welsh Language Boards homework helpline and free translation services.

The Menter has been working closely with the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol by offering administrative support to organise events in order to promote the Eisteddfod in Wrexham. A Business breakfast was arranged in the Ramada hotel, Wrexham and Cross Lanes, Marchwiel with over 100 businesses present. A hospitality and tourism seminar was also held in Yale College with support from the Menter.

Chapter 2: Young Parents

Menter Iaith Maelor works to get young parents to make sure they transfer the Welsh Language to the next generation in order to raise the percentage of families where Welsh are the main language of the home. We will ensure opportunities for young families to use the language in social situations by organising exciting, contemporary events in order to promote the use of the Welsh language in the county.

The Menter has worked closely with Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin over the past year to provide activities, in particular for young parents. During the summer of 2010 a family Project was organised for parents who had received Welsh medium education but had now lost their confidence and turned to speak the English language with their children. The project was very successful with one of the parents now working in one of the Ysgolion Meithrin. There was a follow up to the project in March which was once again successful with ten parents present.

To coincide with the project the Menter organised Welsh refresher courses for parents that wanted to increase their confidence in the speaking through the medium of Welsh. Ten parents and leaders of Ysgolion Meithrin completed the accredited course.

During the Mudiad Ysgol Meithrin festival the Menter held a stall in Ysgol I.D Hooson and it was a good opportunity for the Development Officer to meet with young parents in order to distribute materials and advice which promotes the advantages of bilingualism and the social opportunities that are available for them through the medium of Welsh.

The Development Officer has met with the TWF officer and they will working together to provide information to young parents about the advantages of being bilingual.

The Menter supported in the development of establishing a RhAG (Parents in support of Welsh Education) branch in Wrexham.

Chapter 3: Children

The Menter is keen to work with education and child care establishments to ensure that Welsh language provision is available for all children within their local communities. The Menter Iaith will ensure opportunities for them to use the language in informal situations in order to normalise the use of the language.

The Menter held a stall to mark the 40th anniversary of the twinning of Wrexham with the German town of **Märkischer Kreis**. It was a chance to distribute information about the Menter's work. We also had an arts and crafts table where over 50 children came to create banner on which they drew Welsh symbols.

The Urdd 'Is Adran' about to re-start after a respite. The adran will be meeting weekly in Ysgol I.D Hooson and it will let children have the chance to socialise through the medium of Welsh.

The Menter provided Welsh Language awareness sessions for over 300 children during the European language awareness day. There was also a chance for the children to create banners with pictures of what they felt symbolised Wales and being Welsh.

A theatre group is being held by Steffan Parry star of 'Rownd a Rownd'. The sessions are designed for primary school pupils and the hope is that the group will perform on the stage in the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

Chapter 4: Language Confidence

One of the Menter laith's main objectives is to assist in raising the quantity of Welsh speakers and strengthen the situation of the Welsh language.

The Manager and the Community Development Officer are members of the Informal Learning Panel of Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbigh.

The Menter worked with Welsh Centre for Adults to organise a 'Family Fun Night' in Plas Pentwyn, Coedpoeth. There were over 120 people present with the children being entertained by a conjurer and games and entertainment were provided for every age. It was a great opportunity for learners, old and new to socialise in an informal manner.

Chapter 5: Young People

The Menter laith has continued to promote the Welsh language amongst young people and is looking to create opportunities for the young people to use their Welsh in social situations

The Menter commissioned the famous animator Deiniol Morris (Y Gogs) to provide workshops to students of Yale College and Glyndwr University who were studying art and animation. It was a chance for young people to hear and use the Welsh language in an informal setting.

The Menter commissioned Camalz Media to provide film workshop for 70 young people. It was a chance for them to develop their production and scripting skills. They were organised into 6 groups with each group producing a film that was based on modern Welsh poems. The Wrexham Youth Film Workshop Awards Night was held in the Stiwt, Rhosllannerchrugog February 18th. The night was very successful with nearly 300 people present to hear which film was crowned winner of the film award and to see all 6 films that were nominated for the award. The award was presented by the Minister for Culture, Alun Ffred Jones and the adjudicators were Aled Lewis Evans, Steffan Parry ac Emyllt Tudur.

The Menter worked alongside Mentrau Iaith Sir Ddinbych and Fflintshire to organise a gig- 'Y FFin fach' in Wrexham to celebrate Welsh music and promote the Welsh rock scene. A battle of the Bands competition was also held on the night with Masters in France headlining the gig.

Welsh lyrical workshops were held in the Vic with Ed Holden to help and support young inspiring musician to compose Welsh lyrics and translate any English songs in to Welsh.

The Menter worked alongside the Urdd and Menter Iaith to organise the competition Talent FfM for young people in March 2011. There were 12 contestant in the final that came from all counties in the Springfield Hotel, Hollywell. The judges on the night were Elin Fflur, Ed Holden and Tudur Owen.

A night of entertainment was held in the Young Farmers rally in Overton as Menter Iaith Maelor supported the event and a Welsh DJ was present to ensure that a 150 people heard Welsh rock and pop music. It was a chance to raise the profile of the Menter and the Welsh music scene.

A weekend in Nantyr was organised by the CIW officer and Menter Iaith Maelor for the young people of Wrexham to socialise and learn new skills by taking part in climbing, orienteering and canoeing sessions. It was a chance for the CIW officer to promote and raise awareness of the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol and especially of events at Maes B to ensure that the young people of Wrexham get the opportunity to hear Welsh music. It was also a chance to discuss establishing a youth forum and to gather ideas for future events that would be of interest to young people.

The CIW officer is running a weekly art sessions through the medium of Welsh every Thursday night in the Vic youth centre in the middle of Wrexham town between 5.30 and 7.00pm.

Chapter 6: Private Sector

The Menter Iaith acknowledges the important role that companies and businesses play in ensuring that the Welsh language infiltrates into everyday life. The Menter Iaith continues to work with the Private Sector Unit of the Welsh Language Board to seek out new opportunities to work with local businesses and companies to persuade them of the benefits of using the Welsh language.

The Menter received approval from The Welsh Assembly Government to implement the Bilingual in business project which will be operational from 2011-2013. Funding of £234,00 has been allocated to implement the project over the period in order to offer financial support to small businesses in the rural areas of Wrexham to develop the Welsh Language within he business.

Chapter 7: Marketing and Publicity

We have focused on developing the profile of the Menter during the reporting period in order to create a contemporary image of Welsh medium activities and services in the county. We have managed to build close relationships with local press and media to create positive attitude towards the Welsh language, all this in partnership with members of the County Language Forum and other partners. Publicity was secured during the period with regular articles appearing in the local Community Newspapers, Y Cymro and the Wrexham Leader and a series of programs broadcast on radio station Heart FM. We promote activities and events to young people through the Menter's Facebook site.

Chapter 8: Management Structures and Staffing

Listed below are the **Directors** and **Officers** of Menter Iaith Maelor for the period of the Report:

Directors:-

Chairman – Trefor Jones-Morris

Treasurer - David M James

Secretary - Catherine Eleri Lewis

Alun J Emanuel

L Gwenan Emanuel

Ann LI Hughes

Gareth R Williams

Nerys Jackson

Bob Jones

John Pritchard – resigned January 2011

The Reverend Tom Wright

Staff

Gwawr Cordiner - Manager (part time)

Rhian Davies – Business Officer (part time)

Ellie Pritchard – Business Officer (part time)- resigned January 2011

Michelle Murphy- Community and Research Officer for the Welsh language (part time)- resigned May 2010

Sara Mair Jones – Youth Officer (full time)

Nia Meleri – Youth Officer (full time during maternity leave- appointed March 2010-resigned September 2010)

Owain Dafydd- Youth Officer (full time during maternity leave- appointed September 2010-December 2010)

Sian Edwards– Community Development Officer and Research and Development Officer for the Welsh language (part time) -appointed March 2010 and June 2010

Chapter 9: Implementation, Monitoring and Reviewing

It was agreed that the Menter would prioritise some of the activities from the development fields in Menter Iaith Maelor's Corporate Strategy and 2001-13 Action Plan as well as the annual targets with the Welsh Language Board. The Corporate Strategy was adopted following consultation with members, partners and supporters in July and August, 2009. A grant of £xxxx was secured for the 2010 -11 financial year following our application to the Welsh Language Board in September January 2009. The following **targets** were agreed upon with the Board

Targets

Collaborate with the Welsh Language Boards main partners including, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Young Farmers, Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, Merched y Wawr, Papurau Bro, Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru, Estyn Llaw, Sefydliad Cerddoriaeth Gymreig, Cerdd Cymunedol Cymru and the Duke of Edinburgh Award by sustaining regular meetings, collaborating on projects and continue to Chair the County Language Forum by holding at least 4 meetings a year.

Collaborate with the Welsh Language Board to promote and support projects and campaigns (where relevant) including, Welsh Education Marketing Scheme, Twf, Link Line to Welsh / Home Work Line, Mae Gen ti Ddewis, Cefnogi Arferion Iaith Pobl Ifanc, Iaith Gwaith, Cefnogi'r Gymraeg, Welsh Implementation Schemes and

others as needed.
Attend training and workshops coordinated by the Board as required. (Please indicate which workshops / training attended with dates).
Hold a stall promoting the value of bilingualism in 6 events, in order to provide parents with information about opportunities to use the Welsh language (including one event which is normal non-Welsh). Hold a discussion with 30 parents by June, 35 parents by December and 35 parents of parents by March 2011.
In partnership with organizations such as Sure Start, Flying Start and Genesis. Hold 4 events for parents to raise their awareness of Welsh language services for families, the social opportunities available, and available resources. Opportunities to work by September 2010
Hold a meeting with Information Services to the families of the County to identify opportunities for collaboration by March 2011.
Hold 4 Welsh medium community workshop within the County with the aim of providing opportunities for 24 young people to use the Welsh language. Two workshops to take place by June 2010 and 2 to take place by December 2010
Hold 2 Welsh social events (with the help of young people) within the County. 150 young people to attend events. 1 of the events to take place by June 2010 and 1 to take place by December 2010.
Supporting Welsh language habits Project - Work with the Board to support the implementation of the project through project design • attend meetings with the Board and other partners (this will include the training and evaluation days) • offering practical support to The project members to develop their leadership skills in planning and conducting activities - continue to develop pupils' skills to work on projects outside of the Enterprise project.
Working with Tour organizers C2 Radio Cymru 2010 by: Organising a community activity as part of the trip and ensure that the targets set by the organizers of the trip by 31 October 2010 • Offer further opportunities for bands that are established during to perform the journey by 31 March 2011.
Work with Partnerships for Children and Young People, ensuring that a member of the County Language Forum member of the Partnership and report back at each meeting of the Forum. Working with one sports club (such as Wrexham Football Club) to increase the use of Welsh by: Reviewing the current use of the Welsh language within the club by 30 June 2010

Identify specific areas for development within the club by 30 June 2010
Develop at least one new practice will lead to increasing use of Welsh within the club by March 2011.

Identify a community where over 60% of the population can speak Welsh and hold up to 3 of the activities or campaigns to encourage people to take responsibility for the future of the Welsh in that community.

A grant was secured from **Wrexham County Borough Council** for the **Young People's Officer** until 31 August 2011. In addition, the Menter succeeded in obtaining additional funding of £33,000 from the **Rural Development Plan** which is partially funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Union for the Welsh Language Research and Development Project.

The Director's Board met 4 times between April 2010 and March 2011.

Chapter 10: Summary of the Financial Statement

on 31 March 2010

Directors Report and Financial Statements for the period available on request