

## Festivals 1

*This text is an opinion column from a local newspaper.*

# FESTIVAL FEVER

In every town, in every village, banners hang from walls and fences proclaiming the local arts or music or comedy festival, all aspiring to be the next Glastonbury. And Wales is in the vanguard, drawing on a long history of cultural excellence demonstrated by our flourishing major festivals: the National Eisteddfod; the Urdd Eisteddfod; and the Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

Two of the most notable festivals in the UK take place in Wales: the Green Man Festival in Glan Usk and Festival No. 6 in Portmeirion. Each features big names in music and performance and provides valuable opportunities for local food producers and businesses. Located in areas well-used to tourism, the Green Man and Festival No. 6 are a further boost to visitor numbers. But is this true of the smaller local festivals?



This summer every other village seems to be hosting 'Somethingfest' or 'Gŵyl y Rhywbeth'. Not to be outdone my home village was proud to present 'Gŵyl y Mynydd' – 'A unique experience of local music, food and laughter'. Unfortunately the experience was gridlock, noise and rubbish. Roads were choked from morning till night by cars, camper vans, and burger vans. The noise continued until past 1am despite assurances to the contrary. The festival site could have been mistaken for a landfill site and the behaviour of some of the festival-goers was disgraceful in ways that I don't want to describe...

When the festival was proposed, it was enthusiastically supported by local businesses and the community. There were to be

opportunities for local bands and performers. The high school would showcase the talent of our youngsters. Farmers would make a few pounds from car parking and the pub would also do well. All procedures were followed and permissions granted. So what went wrong? Well, no one has produced an explanation as yet but the results – inconvenience and discomfort for the locals – were clear.

Of course, it is important to boost our local economy and celebrate our talent. But not at the expense of quality of life for residents. Let Glastonbury be Glastonbury and we will be content to welcome a few visitors at time to enjoy our beautiful countryside at its peaceful best.

## Reading

Read the newspaper article 'Festival Fever' carefully.

1. What is the writer's opinion about most festivals in Wales? (Tick one box.)
  - a. She believes there are too many festivals in Wales.
  - b. She believes that the National Eisteddfod, the Urdd Eisteddfod and the Llangollen Eisteddfod should be the only festivals in Wales.
  - c. She believes that festivals should be held only in areas which attract many visitors.
  - d. She thinks that modern festivals are part of a long tradition of cultural celebration in Wales.
  - e. She thinks that festivals have an adverse effect on local businesses.

2. Tick the relevant box below.

	True	False
The writer was opposed to the proposal for a festival in her village.		

3. According to the article, what was the explanation for the problems 'Gŵyl y Mynydd' caused for the local residents? (Tick one box.)
  - a. There was gridlock.
  - b. No one has given an explanation.
  - c. There was a lot of rubbish after the festival.
  - d. The pub did not make any money.
  - e. The noise from the festival went on through the night.

4. Which language choices in 'Festival Fever' suggest that the writer is expressing a personal opinion?

*In this question you will analyse the language used and identify bias.*

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5. The writer of 'Festival Fever' presents a personal opinion but gives evidence to support the view. In your own words summarise the argument presented in 'Festival Fever'.

*In this question you will summarise the article.*

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### **Writing**

6. Write a letter to a local newspaper arguing against proposals for a festival in your local area. Write 200-300 words.
7. A drama or music group from your school has an opportunity to participate in a schools' festival in Europe. Write a letter to the local council asking for a grant to subsidise the group's travelling expenses. You might include the following points:
- the trip will establish links between your school and others in Europe;
  - the trip will promote the learning and teaching of European languages;
  - the festival is an opportunity to promote the school;
  - it is an excellent opportunity for pupils to travel.
- Write 200-300 words.
8. Write a short guide to 'Surviving a Festival'. Your guide should include advice for festival goers on how to enjoy the event without causing problems for local residents. Write 350-500 words.

### **Oracy**

9. Topic: Leisure  
Research and prepare an individual presentation on your experience of attending a festival, expedition or sporting event. The presentation should last about 3 minutes.

10. Topic: Leisure

Using the material in the text, prepare to participate in a discussion on plans for a festival in your local area. You should consider the following points:

- economic benefits to the area during the festival;
- longer term benefits from the publicity;
- cultural opportunities for people in the area;
- the effects of large numbers of visitors and traffic on normal life and business;
- the possibilities of disorder.

*Within the discussion each person will be expected to:*

- *present the information they have found;*
- *give their own views;*
- *respond to the views of others.*