

Cyngor Tref Caerfyrddin Carmarthen Town Council



CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL – PRESS RELEASE/NEWS ITEM

1 Sheriff's Weekend

In September 2017 Carmarthen Town Council hosted the Annual General Meeting of the National Sheriff's Association of the Cities and Towns of England and Wales (NACTSEW). Carmarthen is one of only 15 locations across England and Wales (only two in Wales – Haverfordwest being the other) that has a Sheriff.

In Carmarthen the Sheriff is appointed annually and is elected from within the group of 18 Councillors that make up the Town Council. This year's Sheriff Councillor Phil Grice, who has held the role on three occasions during the last 15 years, led the weekend's activities at Carmarthen, which were all organised by the Town Council.

The events included a welcome reception on the Friday evening followed by several activities in the town on Saturday, including enactments based on the legend of Merlin that is very much a part of Carmarthen's history, guided tours of the town including the Coracle Museum based on the River Towy, a trip to the National Botanical Garden just outside the town and a presentation about the 'Black Book of Carmarthen', which is thought to be the earliest surviving manuscript written solely in Welsh.

On the Saturday evening over a hundred and twenty visitors attended the Association's annual dinner that took place at the town's Ivy Bush Royal Hotel and the guest speaker was the renowned BBC broadcaster Huw Edwards. His account of some of his memorable experiences live in front of the world's eyes were illuminating and fascinating for the captivated audience.

This was followed on Sunday morning by the civic service at St Peter's Parish Church, hosted by Canon Leigh Richardson. There was a procession of Sheriffs and Civic Leaders dressed in their robes from the Town Council's Headquarters at St Peter's Civic Hall to St Peter's Church, led by the Carmarthen Symphonic Wind Band and this proved to be a very colourful and memorable occasion.

The weekend was a resounding success and visitors from all over the United Kingdom had a thoroughly enjoyable time in the town. The NACTSEW Secretary Andrew Swinbourne from Berwick Upon Tweed said: "Everyone I met in Carmarthen was very welcoming and friendly both within our Association and the wider town during my prolonged stay. The weekend was a huge success across all three days and events, and I know that many people were thrilled with it all and especially the guest speaker at dinner."

Carmarthen Sheriff Phil Grice said “It has been an honour to welcome current and past Sheriffs from all over England and Wales to Carmarthen and we all look forward to welcoming them back in fifteen years’ time”.

Alun J Harries

Clerk, Carmarthen Town Council

October 2017



