

Dairy award for Pembrokeshire farmer

At the Welsh Dairy Show held earlier this week, Mansel Raymond, of Jordanston Farm, Letterston, was presented with the Farmers' Union of Wales/HSBC award for the person who has made an outstanding contribution to the Welsh dairy industry.

Mansel, whose nomination was put forward for the award by the NFU in Wales, farms 3,400 acres in a family partnership which includes two dairy herds totalling 620 cows, plus young stock and a herd of beef cattle. They also have an extensive arable acreage.

In 1994, Mansel was elected as a representative to the Milk Marque area council, and five years later became an elected

farmer director to Axis Milk Limited. Shortly after, he was chosen to sit on the Dairy Council and became a farmer director of First Milk Limited.

Presently, he is NFU England and Wales Dairy Board chairman and chairman of the Copa-Cogeca dairy committee (representing numerous farming organisations across Europe). He also sits on the EU Commission advisory group for the sector and represents Welsh and English farmers on the UK Dairy Supply Chain Forum.

As chairman of the Copa-Cogeca dairy committee, he has lobbied on behalf of EU dairy producers to ensure that the specific views of the dairy industry were taken into

account during CAP reform negotiations. He was also an active participant in meetings of the Dairy Coalition, set up last year, that has delivered a very effective and successful joint industry campaign with the aim of delivering fair milk prices for dairy farmers.

The coalition continues to meet regularly and earlier this year he wrote to the Welsh, Defra and Scottish ministers to request their support in putting pressure on milk buyers operating outside the voluntary code of practice on dairy contracts.

The present chairman of the Pembrokeshire County branch of the NFU, he was, in 2005, awarded the MBE for services to Welsh agriculture.



Mansel Raymond pictured with the Roy Davies, president of the Welsh Dairy Show, and FFW president, Emyr Jones.

Camrose Vintage Working Day presentations



Camrose Vintage Working Day held a presentation evening at Camrose Community Centre on Saturday when 16 Pembrokeshire charities received a total of £10,000 which was raised at this year's show.

After a very successful year, the committee has now donated over £140,000 to charities over the 28-year history of the show and hopes to continue over the years to raise more funds to benefit local charitable organisations.

Pictured are the 15 representatives of charities who were present on the evening. Also, Mr. Tony Bevan, this year's chairman of CVWD and Mr. Mike Davies who was the committee's guest who opened the show this year. He is this year's Pembrokeshire Agricultural Society show president for 2013.

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Musical ambassadors

After a hard day relaxing by the pool on holiday in a hot foreign country, nothing beats the sound of great music. Ok, no matter where you go the beaches can never hope to match

Barafundle, Broadhaven, Freshwater West or the myriad of other Pembrokeshire gems that spoil us all for choice. And the realisation that the local musicians will be hard pushed to come close to the sublime talents of the Embers, Claudia's, Al Daveys and Ella Guru's and a host of other Pembrokeshire-based artistes who can be regularly heard singing in Pembrokeshire venues is taken as read before you step on a plane. After all you are on holiday and can't take Pembrokeshire with you, well perhaps in your mind you can but that doesn't count.

On a recent trip to Cyprus, I had a bit of a very pleasant surprise. The hotel notice board was advertising live music for the evening from a husband and wife duo and the word was they were very good.

Sure enough as the sun disappeared the horizon in a ball of fire that was almost as good as a Manorbier sunset I was with a group of people sat on a veranda outside the main hotel when the duo started singing. Everyone went quiet. They were good. Not only were they good, I wasn't sure if I was imagining it but they were good with a 'Pembrokeshire' accent.

Closer inspection revealed that the duo were none other than husband and wife team Jim and Maria Outram performing as Take Two. Having moved out to Cyprus from



Haverfordwest, they cut their music teeth in the pubs, clubs and many other musical venues that Pembrokeshire has to offer. Now visitors to Cyprus are reaping the benefit and loving every minute of it. Together, they have great harmony and an almost telepathic understanding of how to bring the best out of each others voices.

Maria's Pembrokeshire accent is as clear as ever and is used to great effect. Jim has a voice that you could never tire of listening. They so obviously enjoy their work and this enthusiasm to perform quickly spreads to the audience.

When not performing, Jim and Maria are spreading the gospel of music via their jobs as vocal and keyboard tutors

at Limassol Theatre Arts School (Jim was a former lecturer at Pembrokeshire College). Maria enjoys her days as a teaching assistant at a local English speaking grammar school. By sheer coincidence, Jim was the pianist in the backing group for Claudia and the Jazzmasters which was one of the first performances I ever covered at the Fourcroft Jazz Brunches.

So, there is a little bit of Pembrokeshire alive, well and performing in Cyprus. Long may they continue to do so. Look them up on www.themusicians.org.uk they would love to hear from their old friends.

ALLAN MORRIS



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