

8th October 2018

## **ICC Wales hosts sneak preview festival ahead of 2019 opening**

A Festival in the Foundations was held in the construction site of the forthcoming convention centre ICC Wales, giving more than 200 guests an immersive taste of what the venue will offer when it opens next year.

The innovative festival welcomed high profile industry figures, clients and stakeholders of ICC Wales and their families into a specially cordoned area comprising about one third of what will be the vast 4,000 sq m main hall of the finished venue. Amongst those who took a hard hat tour of other areas of ICC Wales, including the 1,500 seat auditorium, was First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones.

The roof already atop the main hall protected guests from the elements but the open sides afforded views through the steel framework of what will be the outdoor plaza approach and guests entered the event area through the shell of the entrance atrium to ICC Wales.

The unique venue was brought to life with a circus marquee, bars, a Prosecco van and street food stalls serving a delicious array of food from the ICC Wales catering team including a seafood shack, pizza, hot pork baps, pulled lamb pancakes and Wickedly Welsh chocolate.

Mesmerising circus performances included dancing stilt walkers and aerial acrobats hanging from silks attached to the still-exposed steel girders of the main hall. A stage featured live music from The Apple Tree Theory giving way to a spellbinding finale from award-winning Welsh youth choir, Only Boys Aloud.

Guests staying overnight at neighbouring Celtic Manor went on to enjoy evening festivities at the Golf Club concluding with a spectacular firework display as ICC Wales counts down to its opening in July 2019. Festival in the Foundations directly followed The Business of Events Wales, a senior leadership forum for the Welsh business events community, held at Celtic Manor on 5 October.



Ian Edwards, CEO of ICC Wales said “We have had a hugely successful and enjoyable few days here at ICC Wales, beginning with hosting a meeting of the Events Industry Board, The Business of Events Wales, and finishing with our fun packed party – Festival in the Foundations. As well as being a lot of fun, Festival in the Foundations showcased our fantastic new venue as well as the passion and expertise of our team, and we look forward to hosting many more events here once we open our doors next year.”

The £84 million conference centre is now putting the finishing touches to the exterior build which has included the erection of 4,200 tons of steel. The number of workers on site will rise to 350 next month as interior works progress.

If you missed Festival in the Foundations, you can visit ICC Wales before it opens as part of the venue’s “Wonder What It’s Like” hard hat tours. For more information please contact Danielle Bounds at [danielle@iccwales.com](mailto:danielle@iccwales.com)

A joint venture between Celtic Manor and Welsh Government, when it opens next year, ICC Wales will accommodate 5,000 delegates and includes a 4,000sqm pillar-free main hall, a 1,500-seated auditorium, 12 flexible meeting rooms, a double-height glass atrium and a 2,500sqm outdoor plaza.

[www.iccwales.com](http://www.iccwales.com)

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**Notes to editors**

ICC Wales is managed by the Celtic Manor Resort’s expert leadership team responsible for the successful delivery of the 2014 Nato Summit and the 2010 Ryder Cup. Opening in 2019, the ICC Wales is located within the grounds of the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport just two minutes from the M4.

<http://www.iccwales.com/>